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COLONIAL REPORTS

Mauritius

1953

LONDON: HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1954

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Report

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PART I

General Review

The main events of the year were the Coronation Celebrations and elections—the General Elections for the Legislative Council took place in August and the urban Local Government Elections in December. At the end of July it was announced that Sir Robert Scott, Administrator of the East Africa High Commission, would succeed Sir Hilary Blood as Governor on his retirement in January 1954. It was also announced that Mr. J. D. Harford, Colonial Secretary, had been appointed Governor of St. Helena and was to be succeeded by Mr. Robert Newton, Financial Secretary to the Government of Jamaica. In August a representative delegation from Tanganyika, led by the Chief Secretary, visited Mauritius to present a set of silver drums to the 26th (Tanganyika) Battalion of the K.A.R. on behalf of the Government of Taganyika. Lt. General Sir Alexander Cameron, G.O.C. East Africa Command, paid two visits during the year, in May and October. In November the Chamber of Agriculture celebrated its centenary with the publication of a Golden Book, a Garden Party in Pamplemousses Gardens, and the unveiling of a plaque at Ferney to commemorate the first planting of sugarcane in Mauritius by the Dutch in 1650.

The Coronation Celebrations which were island-wide included religious services, a parade at the Champ de Mars in which detachments of the M.N.V.F., R.A., 26th Battalion K.A.R., R.P.C. Mauritius, Mauritius Police, Fire Brigade, Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, British Red Cross, Nurses and Ex-servicemen took part, Sports Meetings, special celebrations for school-children and a Banquet at Government House, Port Louis. Later, in July, a Military Tattoo was held in which the Ship's Company of H.M.S. *Newfoundland* took part. A meeting of the Legislative Council held on 5th June passed a resolution offering its respectful homage to Her Majesty and asking that a message expressing feelings of the deepest loyalty and attachment of the people of Mauritius to the person of Her Majesty and to the Throne might be conveyed to the Queen. The Colony was represented in London by the

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Honourable A. G. Sauzier and the Honourable R. Seeneevassen and the Press of Mauritius by the Honourable F. G. Martial, O.B.E. Several members of the local branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association had the honour of attending the luncheon given by the Association for Her Majesty in Westminster Hall a few days before the Coronation.

On the occasion of the New Year Her Majesty was graciously pleased to approve the following appointments:—

Knight Bachelor

J. B. F. HERCHENRODER, Q.C.,—Chief Justice.

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

NEVIL RUSSEL MCCURDY,—Director of Observatory.

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

PAUL WILLY PROSPER ANNIBAL,—Special Grade Clerk—Registrar General's Department.

British Empire Medal (Civil)

RAMBURRAN JAGESAR,—Shore Boatswain, Harbour and Quays Department.

King's Police Medal for Distinguished Service

DR. JOCELYN MAINGARD, *M.B.E.*,—Police Medical Officer and Superintendent of the Forensic Science Laboratory.

On the occasion of Her Coronation Her Majesty made the following appointments:—

Knight Grand Cross of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

SIR HILARY RUDOLPH ROBERT BLOOD, K.C.M.G., K.St.J., LL.D.

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

LADY KEMSLEY

GABRIEL MARTIAL

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

PHILIPPE DUPAVILLON, Manager of Tobacco Board Warehouse and Secretary of the Tobacco Board.

RAMJUTTAN RAMDASS, Assistant Commissioner of Income Tax.

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Political Scene

The second General Elections under the constitution brought into force in 1948 took place on the 26th and 27th August. About eighty per cent of the electorate voted and there were no untoward incidents. Of the nineteen seats thirteen were won by candidates sponsored by the Labour Party, two by candidates sponsored by the Ralliement Mauricien and four by independent Hindu candidates. Of the two successful candidates of the Ralliement Mauricien one headed the poll in Plaines Wilhems and the other, a Muslim, was elected as Fourth Member for Port Louis. A feature of the elections was the defeat of independent candidates in Plaines Wihems and Port Louis. The closeness of the results in Plaines Wilhems, where only 4 votes separated the candidates who came 6th and 7th, gave rise to an election petition calling, *inter alia*, for a recount and a scrutiny of tendered ballot papers. The petition was still before the Supreme Court at the end of the year.

The new Legislative Council met for the first time on 15th September and proceeded to elect four members to the Executive Council. Two additional members were appointed by the Governor, who also appointed certain members of Executive Council as Liaison Officers. The unofficial members of the new Executive Council were:—

Dr the Hon. S. Ramgoolam ...	...	Liaison Officer for Education	
Dr. the Hon. C. E. Millien ...	...	do.	Agriculture and Forestry
The Hon. R. Seeneevassen ...	...	do.	Social Services
The Hon. A. L. Nairac, C.B.E. ...	...	do.	Labour
The Hon. A. Gujadhur			
The Hon. F. G. Martial, O.B.E.			

A motion in the name of the Honourable J. G. Rozemont, President of the Mauritius Labour Party, asking that the Secretary of State should receive a delegation in London to discuss constitutional issues, was debated in Legislative Council in December and carried by a majority of sixteen to thirteen with four abstentions. Among the issues mentioned by supporters of the motion as requiring discussion were the introduction of universal suffrage and the institution of a ministerial or quasi-ministerial

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system. In the same month there was a further debate, not completed by the end of the Session, on the arrangements for presiding over the Legislative Council, in the course of which the desirability of relieving the Governor from this task by the appointment of a Speaker was discussed.

The triennial elections for the Municipality of Port Louis and the Town Councils of Curepipe, Beau Bassin—Rose Hill and Quatre Bornes were held in December. There was for the first time the general appearance of something in the form of parties and no independent candidates were elected. The Labour Party concentrated on Port Louis but succeeded in obtaining only seven of the sixteen seats.

There was a noticeable increase in the activities of the three District Councils and the 83 Village Councils. The former levied taxation for the first time, in the form of entertainment tax, and collected just over Rs 60,000. Much of the work of the District Councils was concerned with the scrutiny and approval of the budgets of the Village Councils.

Economic Matters

The prosperity of Mauritius depends on sugar which with its by-products accounts for over 99 per cent of the exports. The remarkable freedom from tropical cyclones which the Colony has enjoyed since the cyclones of 1945 continued in 1953. The early rapid growth of sugarcane stimulated by the heavy rains in December 1952 was maintained by sufficient rainfall throughout the growing season and culminated in an exceptionally large harvest. Unfortunately rainfall continued to be high during the main maturation period, from August to November, so that the sucrose content of the harvested cane was low. Nevertheless sugar production for 1953 reached the record figure of 512,076 tons.

In accordance with the agreement reached in principle at the International Sugar Conference held in July 1953, at which Mauritius was represented through the United Kingdom delegation, the Mauritius export quota, inclusive of the quantity of sugar which the United Kingdom has undertaken to purchase under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, was fixed at 470,000 tons.

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The record sugar crop was gratifying but two shadows were cast during the year. The publication of the report of the 1952 Census established that the population on the night of the 28th–29th June, 1952, was 501,415 persons, an increase of nearly 20 per cent over the population established at the last census in 1944 ; and the price for sugar sold within the Commonwealth announced for 1954 was less than that for 1953 (£41 per ton against £42.6.8), the first reversal of the upward trend since 1940.

The development of the fibre (Mauritius hemp) industry was checked by the fall in the price of jute and therefore of imported bags and as a result only about Rs 300,000 of the amount made available for loan under the Development Plan was taken up.

Tea production mounted to over 900,000 lbs of which about 75,000 lbs were exported. The rise in price of tea in the United Kingdom and world markets removed the fear of heavy imports of cheap tea from Ceylon and stimulated exports. Progress was made in opening up the Government tea plantation at Midlands but no further action was taken towards the construction of a Government tea factory.

The Central Electricity Board, formally constituted in December 1952, operated the former Government distribution system and the generating station and distribution system acquired from the Electric Generating Supply Company in the South, and, with the appointment of a General Manager in the middle of the year, turned its attention to means of increasing the production of electricity. The hydro-electric projects in the Development Plan were reviewed, others given preliminary consideration and the installation of a thermal generating station planned. In order to meet the immediate need the Board placed an order for a thermal plant of 1,700 kws to be delivered in 1954.

A Government Transport Adviser was appointed and took up duty in July. He devoted his attention to the examination of the economics of the Railway and, through the Transport Control Board, to the re-organisation of the private bus industry. By the end of the year the bus industry had been re-organised in 14 regional groups. At the request of Government a representative of Messrs. Coode and Partners visited Mauritius in June, 1953, to report on harbour development.

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The Colony was visited in August by the Secretary General of the Commission for Technical Co-operation in Africa and in September by the Secretary of State's Forestry Adviser.

Bulk purchases of rice by Government, rationing and distribution through the trade were continued but there were welcome signs of an easing of the situation and a downward trend in prices on the world market. In September a Burmese Trade Mission consisting of representatives of the Burmese State Agricultural Marketing Board paid a visit.

The total imports during the year were valued at Rs 251,093,755 and exports at Rs 274,165,096.

The National Income of the Colony for the year 1952 was computed to be Rs 518,000,000 or Rs 1,016 per capita. The increase in the National Income over 1951 was 11·4 per cent and the increase per capita 8·1 per cent.

Social Developments

The continued prosperity of Mauritius during 1953 enabled further progress to be made in the social services, particularly in education, though the implications for recurrent expenditure, emphasised by the effect of salaries revision, gave cause for anxiety.

The number of primary schools increased from 279 to 297 and the number of primary pupils on the roll reached 87,473 as compared with 78,597 in 1952 and 55,283 in 1950. It is estimated that three-quarters of the children in the primary age group—5+ to 11+—now receive schooling. These numbers can be accommodated only at the expense of over-crowding and the task of raising standards of accommodation and at the same time coping with the increased in-take which must be expected from the increase in population in recent years is a formidable one. Average attendances slightly exceed eighty per cent of the children on the roll. The first block of class-rooms for the new Queen Elizabeth College for Girls was completed and occupied. The Youth Organisation of the Education Department expanded its activities and now deals with 194 clubs with a total membership of 7,800.

The change of emphasis in the Health Department's anti-malarial work from eradication to control was recognised by the transfer of expenditure on the service from the Development and

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Welfare estimates to a new Insect-borne Diseases division of the Health Department in the general estimates. The downward trend in the death rate, which had fallen from 27·3 per 1,000 in 1933 to 14·8 in 1952, was checked by an epidemic of whooping-cough which, as a result of mortality among young children, raised the figure to 16·1. For the first time no case of malaria was recorded under treatment in hospital. Construction of a new Orthopaedic Hospital to replace the present temporary accommodation was started, but the need for a greater number of general hospital beds became more evident.

In October a Report and Master Plan for Port Louis by the Government town planning consultant, Professor Thornton White, was published. As the plan deals with the main road approach from Plaines Wilhems, the Report and Plan affects more than Port Louis and is relevant to consideration of the future of the Government Railway. Professor Thornton White visited Mauritius towards the end of the year to discuss his work.

The Public Assistance Department, which had included Social Welfare among its activities, was split into two smaller departments, Assistance and Social Welfare, with effect from 1st July. The maximum rate of old age pension was increased from Rs 15 to Rs 20 per month and the qualifying age for women reduced to 60. A slight increase in the scales of relief was approved in May. The Social Welfare department on its institution as a separate department took over responsibility for probation from the Judicial department. Three new Social Welfare centres were opened and the first of a series of special " Welfare Months " was inaugurated at the Bambous Social Welfare Centre.

The urban local government authorities went ahead with the housing schemes they are undertaking with loans from Development funds. In Curepipe 74 houses have now been built, in Beau Bassin—Rose Hill 15, in Quatre Bornes 72, and in Port Louis an experimental scheme of 24 houses has been completed. The Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund made a start with a scheme of fifty permanent houses for hire-purchase by sugar workers at Goodlands.

In September the Secretary of State's Broadcasting Advisory Engineer visited Mauritius to advise on a scheme for technical improvements.

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The Governor, Sir Hilary Blood, paid a farewell visit to the dependencies in October and November.

Development Programme

The execution of the Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan has been gathering speed during recent years. This is reflected in the steady increase in the rate of expenditure during the last four years as shown below:—

Financial year	*Total (million rupees)*	*Sources of Finance*		
		C.D. & W Funds	*Local Funds*	*Loan Funds*
1949–50	5·7	1·1	1·9	2·7
1950–51	7·8	1·0	2·5	4·3
1951–52	9·3	4·6	2·0	2·7
1952–53	15·0	5·1	2·6	7·3

The increase in the rate of progress is due mainly to a marked improvement in the supply of materials. Progress in 1953 may be briefly summarised as follows:—

Agriculture: Extension of agricultural experimental stations for foodcrops and fodder; extension of the Animal Husbandry Division for the improvement of stock and milk production; the continuation of the Land Settlement Pilot Scheme; the enlargement of the Government Sack Factory, designed to process 3 million aloe fibre bags as compared to the present output of 2 million bags; the extension of the Government tea plantations.

Health: The completion of the malaria eradication scheme, comprising the spraying of houses and breeding places with insecticides, the drainage of marshy grounds and the canalisation of rivers. Virtual eradication has been achieved and the incidence of malaria has fallen to negligible proportions. Maintenance costs are now borne by the ordinary budget of the Colony.

Water Supplies: The completion of a 220-million cubic feet storage reservoir to supply water for domestic purposes to 5 districts; the completion of an irrigation canal 17 miles in length to provide irrigation water to an area of about 2,700 acres; and the laying of new pipes as fast as they are supplied from the United Kingdom.

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Buildings: The completion of 14 new primary schools ; the construction of a first block of classrooms for a new secondary school for girls ; the construction of classrooms for a teachers' training college ; the first stages of construction of a new Orthopaedic hospital. Loans amounting to Rs 1,000,000 have been made to local government bodies to finance their housing schemes.

Roads: The completion of construction of a new road of about 7 miles which will open up an agricultural region of over 1,500 acres.

Forest: A new grant of £70,000 has been made under the Colonial Development and Welfare reserve to assist in the replanting of the Crown Forest Estate. The original provision of Rs 750,000 under the Development Plan is practically exhausted.

Further financial details of the Development Plan are given in Appendix I.

A preliminary review of the Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan has been made in the light of increased costs and funds available under the Plan. After eliminating schemes completed and projects to be abandoned funds have been reallocated in broad categories to meet the costs of schemes under execution and other unescapable commitments. The reallocation will form the nucleus of a development programme for the period 1955–60.

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PART II

Chapter I—Population

For statistical purposes, the population is divided into three classes:—

(a) the General population, comprising Europeans and descendants of Europeans, and people of African and mixed origin ;

(b) the Indo-Mauritian population, made up of Indian immigrants and their unmixed descendants and

(c) the Sino-Mauritian population consisting of immigrants from China and their descendants.

A Census of the population which was taken during the night of the 28th–29th June, 1952, gave the following results:—

	General	*Indo-Mauritian*	*Sino-Mauritian*	*Total*
Males ...	70,370	171,241	10,421	252,032
Females ...	77,868	164,086	7,429	249,383
TOTAL ...	148,238	335,327	17,850	501,415

The population of Mauritius as at 31st December, 1953, was estimated therefrom at 525,000 exclusive of the members of the Royal Pioneer Corps who were in military employment overseas.

The natural increase, that is the excess of births over deaths in 1953, was 15,597, which is about 6 times the corresponding average for the five prewar years (1935–39).

In the General population and the Sino-Mauritian population together this increase was 4,484 and in the Indo-Mauritian population 11,113.

Civilian arrivals in the Colony exceeded departures by 198.

The average density of population for the whole island was 717 per square mile (calculated on the mid-year population).

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Births

(a) The number of live births during the year 1953, was 23,896, a decrease of only 224 on the number for 1952, which was the highest on record. It represented an increase of 3,545 on the yearly average number of births for the decennial period ending with 1952:—

Population	*Males*	*Females*	*Total*	*Male births per 1,000 female births*
General and Sino-Mauritian	3,780	3,691	7,471	1,024
Indo-Mauritian ...	8,330	8,095	16,425	1,029
Whole population ...	12,110	11,786	23,896	1,027

The following are the birth rates (per 1,000 of the mid-year population) for the last five years:—

Population	*1949*	*1950*	*1951*	*1952*	*1953*
General and Sino-Mauritian	37·3	40·7	42·0	45·0	43·9
Indo-Mauritian ...	51·0	54·8	50·5	49·6	47·4
Whole Population ...	46·0	49·7	47·5	48.1	46·3

(b) Still-births, which are not included as either births or deaths numbered 1,568 (881 males and 687 females), a rate of 6·6 per hundred live-births. During the year 1952 there were 1,575 still-births, a rate of 6·5.

Deaths

Deaths registered in Mauritius numbered 8,299, a rate of 16 per 1,000 of the population.

	General (including Sino-Mauritian)		*Indo-Mauritian*		*Total*	
	Males	*Females*	*Males*	*Females*	*Males*	*Females*
No. of deaths in 1953 ...	1,526	1,461	2,719	2,593	4,245	4,054
Rates per 1,000 of population..	18·6	16·6	15·4	15·2	16·4	15·7

The average death rates for the period 1944–53 were 19·1 for the General Population ; 22·5 for the Indo-Mauritian Population and 21·3 for the whole population.

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Infantile Mortality

Infantile mortality was this year higher than in 1952, though still considerably lower than for the quinquennial period 1944–48.

The following table shows the rate for the past five years:—

Population

Year	*General (incl. Sino-Mauritian)*	*Indo-Mauritian*	*Total*
1944—1948 (average) ...	150·5	156·8	154·9
1949 ...	88·5	92·0	91·0
1950 ...	69·7	79·0	76·3
1951 ...	85·1	82·7	83·5
1952 ...	78·8	81·7	80·8
1953 ...	94·2	93·2	93.5

Marriages

The following table gives the number of marriages in the General and Indo-Mauritian population for the last five years:—

Population	*1949*	*1950*	*1951*	*1952*	*1953*
General (including Sino-Mauritian)...	1,366	1,400	1,457	1,628	1,520
Indo-Mauritian ...	2,248	1,650	1,623	2,466	1,953
Whole Population ..	3,614	3,050	3,080	4,094	3,473

The marriage rate in each population for 1953 was higher than the corresponding average rates for the quinquennial period 1934–38. In the General Population it was 15 per cent above and in the Indo-Mauritian Population it was 69 per cent above this prewar average rate.

Movement of the Civil Population*

	General			*Indo-Mauritian*			*Sino-Mauritian*			
	M	*F*	*T*	*M*	*F*	*T*	*M*	*F*	*T*	*Total*
Arrivals ...	3,752	1,954	5,706	715	317	1,032	353	161	514	7,252
Departures ...	3,576	1,851	5,427	721	293	1,014	435	178	613	7,054

*Includes :—

(*a*) the very small figure of engaged or discharged seamen ;

(*b*) emigrants and immigrants to and from the dependencies but not movements of troops and locally enlisted servicemen.

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Chapter 2—Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

EMPLOYMENT

The total number of gainfully occupied persons was estimated to be approximately 164,000 of which 45% are agricultural workers. In 1953, the numbers of workers employed by each of the industries were as follows as compared with 1952*:—

	1952				1953			
	Men	*Women*	*Juveniles*	*Total*	*Men*	*Women*	*Juveniles*	*Total*
(*a*) *Sugar Industry*	38,027	12,658	3,498	54,183	37,763	13.148	3,227	54,138
(*b*) *Public Services*—								
Government Departments	9,149	190	195	9,534	9,039	213	126	9,378
Town Councils	374	85	36	495	353	55	29	437
(*c*) *Other Industries*—								
Aloe Fibre...	555	531	143	1,229	501	784	98	1,383
Aerated Water Works	61	25	13	99	81	42	—	123
Bakeries	446	—	—	446	468	—	—	468
Building Contractors	1,008	—	—	1,008	1,071	23	—	1,094
Cigarette Manufactories	99	200	1	300	83	138	3	224
Compounders	71	—	—	71	73	—	—	73
Distilleries	226	—	38	264	233	—	20	253

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	1952				1953			
	Men	*Women*	*Juveniles*	*Total*	*Men*	*Women*	*Juveniles*	*Total*
(c) *Other Industries—contd.*								
Docks	1.250	9	18	1,277	1,247	10	14	1,298
Electricity	343	—	7	350	377	—	30	407
Jewellery	195	—	126	321	206	—	135	341
Lime Kilns	345	258	33	636	347	267	33	647
Match Manufactories	12	20	4	36	15	23	—	38
Oil Industry	63	—	—	63	64	—	—	64
Printing Establishment	199	—	36	235	195	—	45	240
Salt Pans	54	34	14	102	40	40	6	86
Saw Mills	154	—	—	154	174	—	—	174
Shoe-making (Big Shops)	211	21	141	373	221	30	150	401
Stevedoring Cies	536	—	—	536	660	—	—	660
Tanneries	35	—	—	35	36	—	—	36
Tea Industry	427	514	444	1,385	506	565	436	1,507
Tobacco	777	784	387	1,948	847	849	417	2,113
Wine Industries	255	103	29	387	271	140	33	444
Workshops (Motor)	374	—	155	529	437	—	181	618
Workshops (Other)	831	6	66	903	849		64	916
Bus Coach Builders	67	—	22	89	114	—	19	133
	56,144	15,438	5,406	76,988	56,298	16,330	5,066	77,694

* The balance is made up of self-employed craftsmen, unskilled journeymen, domestic servants, shop-keepers, shop assistants, office workers, etc.

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The Sugar Industry, the main industry of the Island, employed on an average 54,138 workers in 1953. The seasonal fluctuation in this industry between the average inter-harvest employment and average harvest employment amounted to 18·1 per cent as shown by the following figures:—

		During Intercrop		*During crop*
Artisans and drivers		4,265		4,336
Labourers				
Males ...	29,563		37,362	
Females ...	11,906		14,389	
Juveniles ...	3.023		3,431	
		44,492		55,182
		48,757		59,518

The Secondary Industries of the Island, of which the more important are aloe fibre extraction, alcohol distilling from molasses and the manufacture of tea and tobacco, provided employment for some 4,494 skilled workers, 469 unskilled males, 2,914 females and some 1,684 juveniles. The public services employed 2,934 skilled workers and 6,458 unskilled men, 268 women and 155 juveniles. The number of persons employed in industries and the public services was registered as 77,694 of whom 11,729 were skilled workers, 44,569 unskilled men, and 21,396 women and juveniles.

The Sugar Industry

The value of the sugar annually exported from Mauritius represents more than 97 per cent of the total value of all exports from the Colony. The sugar industry therefore governs the entire economy of the Island ; it embraces all those persons directly or indirectly interested in the planting of sugarcane and in the manufacture of sugar and its by-products, and interested in the financing of the cultivation, manufacture and marketing of the product, and affects, very largely, the public revenue and those classes of people, such as merchants and bankers, whose business is mainly connected therewith.

Figures of employment in the sugar industry are given in the previous chapter in the section dealing with workers. Much of the estate work is still of a manual nature, though mechanization of field work is being pushed as rapidly as imports of bulldozers, rotary ploughs and tractors permit ; the rocky nature of the soil however makes it extremely unlikely that the industry can ever become fully mechanized.

Other Occupations

Other occupations include the aloe fibre *(Furcroea Gigantea)* industry, which produces fibre for bags for the sugar industry ;

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the tea industry, which is at present operating on a comparatively small scale and mainly producing tea for local consumption ; tobacco growing ; food crops and the cultivation of vegetables ; and the rearing of milch cows and livestock on a small scale.

Minor industries include fishing, sawmills, garages, workshops, salt pans, lime kilns, furniture manufacture, charcoal burning, match manufacture, the preparation of hides and skins, tanning and boot and shoe manufacture, clothing and shirt manufacture, printing, etc.

Apart from agricultural and industrial occupations, many of the population are employed as clerical workers and as domestic servants.

There is full employment among agricultural workers during the five months crop season of the year, but unemployment is occasionally reported amongst this category of workers, in certain areas, at certain times during the remaining period of the year. An effort is usually made, through the machinery of the Local Employment Committees, to alleviate unemployment where it exists by the issue of permits to transport labourers by lorry to localities where work is available and relief work may also be started as a temporary measure. Government Departments employing labour are required to reserve, as much as possible, their major works for the intercrop season. Employers are requested to recruit their labour through the Employment Registration Bureau and when workers are discharged from employment, they are referred to the Bureau to register for re-employment.

The number of unemployed persons and the number of workers placed for the year 1953 were as follows:—

1953	*Unemployed Persons*	*Placings*
January	1,305	530
February	1,174	603
March	1,238	555
April	1,103	470
May...	1,241	417
June...	1,231	366
July	1,340	620
August	1,140	243
September	1,228	344
October	1,159	420
November	1,117	199
December	979	245
Average registration p.m. ...	1,188	—
Average placings p.m.... ...	—	418

1952

Average registrations per month ... 1,148

Average placings per month ... 379

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Migrant Labour

There is no migrant labour problem in Mauritius.

Emigrant Labour

During the year 1953, 50 workers were recruited through the Employment Registration Bureau in accordance with the Free Emigration Regulations No. 156 of 1951 to take up employment in the following countries:—

Madagascar	30
Nyasaland	14
Kenya	1
Portuguese East Africa	3
Northern Rhodesia	1
Tanganyika	1
Total	50

The Emigration Regulations 1951 provide as under.

Section 3

Before leaving the Colony, an emigrant shall obtain an Emigration Certificate from the Regional Controller (Labour Commissioner) of the area in which the emigrant resides, and such certificate shall be granted under the following conditions:—

(1) The emigrant shall have registered at an Employment Registration Bureau as a person seeking employment.

(2) The emigrant shall have completed a questionnaire in the form set out in the Schedule to these Regulations.

(3) The Regional Controller shall have satisfied himself, within the means at his disposal, that:—

(a) the proposed contract of service of the emigrant is fair and reasonable, and makes sufficient provision for his dependent relatives in Mauritius ;

(b) the contract of service will be valid in the country of employment ;

(c) the emigrant is aware—

(i) of the general conditions of living in the country of employment ;

(ii) of his rights as a British subject, and,

(iii) of the steps to be taken if he should at any time wish to return to Mauritius.

(4) The emigrant shall, if so required by the Regional Controller, submit himself for examination, at Government expense, by a duly qualified medical officer selected in that behalf by the Regional Controller.

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(5) The emigrant shall, if so required, submit himself to a trade test under such conditions as the Regional Controller may prescribe, provided that such emigrant may be allowed all reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred by him for the purpose of undergoing such test.

Wages

The level of wages is largely determined by the rates prevailing in the sugar industry. In this industry minimum rates of wages for workers of the artisan category (represented by the General Workers' Union) and for labourers (represented by the Mauritius Amalgamated Labourers' Association) are negotiated by collective bargaining between the two unions and the employers' organisation, the Sugar Producers' Association. A trade agreement provides for the cost of living bonus paid to sugar estate workers to fluctuate with the cost of living index prepared by the Labour Department and for a bonus to be paid at the end of the year, based on the price of sugar and the size of the crop. The principle of collective bargaining has also been adopted by dock workers, by workers in the electricity supply companies and by workers of the artisan category who are members of the General Workers' Union and the respective Employers' Organisations. The wages of workers in some other industries are thought to be sufficiently protected in general by the agreed rates payable in the sugar industry. In certain industries, however, where the trade union organisation is weak and incapable of fully representing the interests of its members, recourse has been had to orders issued under the Minimum Wage Ordinance. Orders of this nature have been issued in respect of workers in the printing trade, messengers in private firms, female factory workers, and passenger road transport workers.

Basic wage rates in the sugar and other industries are subdivided into different categories in acordance with the type of work and the different categories of workers. Typical rates are:—

Sugar Industry

Monthly Employees

Labourers :—			*Rs cs*
Men...	Class I	43 50	per month
Women and Young persons. ...	Class I	28 85	per month
Children		20 08	per month
Semi-skilled		55 00 to Rs 147 00	per month

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Overtime, sickness allowance, house accommodation, paid holidays, annual leave and maternity allowance are also provided for.

DAILY WORKERS

Labourers :—		*Rs cs*
Men	Class I	2 48 per day
Women and young persons	Class I	1 24 per day
Children	Class I	0 69 per day
Semi-skilled ...		2 05 to Rs 3.45 per day

A Cost of Living Allowance at the rate of 47½ per cent on basic wage is paid to all employed in the Sugar Industry. An end of crop bonus ranging from a half to 3 months wages is also granted to all monthly employed persons, depending upon the size of the crop and the price obtained for sugar.

OTHER INDUSTRIES

	Rs cs		*Rs cs*
Dock workers	92 25	to	223 00 per month
	3 20	,,	8 38 per day
Artisans (Grade III to Grade I) ...	75 00	,,	310 00 per month
	3 00	,,	10 40 per day
Printing workers	3 75	,,	6 50 per day
Shop Assistants	60 00	,,	160 00 per month

The above rates are inclusive of Cost of Living Allowance.

HOURS OF WORK

In all cases where workers are employed upon a time-basis, the working day is of 8 hours, but where they are employed upon a task or piece work basis it may be only 5 hours. Government office hours are from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. with half hour break for lunch. Business offices and many of the shops in Port Louis follow more or less the same practice.

LABOUR DEPARTMENT—COST OF LIVING FIGURE

The Labour Department Cost of Living Index figures Base 1946 = 100) for agricultural labourers in the year 1953 were:—

January ...	152·4	July	154·0
February ...	152·9	August... ...	153·4
March	153·1	September ...	152·4
April	153·0	October ...	151·4
May	152·9	November ...	150·9
June	153·7	December ...	150·9

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The Labour Department

The Labour Department can trace some link in the past with the office of the Protector of Slaves, for that office was succeeded by the Bureau of the Protector of Immigrants, and when immigration had ceased, the Poor Law Commissioner occupied the building and also administered the law. This law was thoroughly revised in 1878, again in 1922, and again in 1938. In the same year an Ordinance legalised the existence of industrial associations and the Director of Labour was given certain powers for regulating the settlement of industrial disputes. The Labour Ordinance, 1938, provided for the appointment of a Director of Labour and staff, in order to " perform all duties imposed and exercise all powers conferred " on him by this Ordinance. The title of Director of Labour was later changed to that of Labour Commissioner.

The Labour Commissioner is an overseas officer, the Deputy Labour Commissioner and the two Assistant Commissioners and the rest of the staff are local officers. The field staff consists of thirteen Labour Officers, including one woman officer who is particularly responsible for estate housing conditions.

Amongst the senior officers, duties are divided functionally, into conciliation, trade union relations and enforcement of safety, health and welfare provisions. Amongst the junior officers, duties are divided territorially, and they are responsible under the senior officer to whom they are attached for whatever duties are allotted to them in their particular districts. These district Labour Officers, each of whom is required to follow a Labour Officers' Training Course in U.K., perform a most important task, keeping in close and continuous contact with the mass of the workers and helping the individual worker to understand and make use of the Labour Laws.

Inspection of camps and factories is regular and thorough. Careful reports are prepared, and copies of the relevant portions are sent to the employers concerned, with a request for early action. These letters are followed up by further inspections and a warning of prosecution if no action is taken by the employer. The number of factories registered has increased considerably.

Many sugar estates house part of their labour force on the estate, and a group of such lodgings is called a camp. Under the Labour Ordinance the state of these camps must not fall below a certain standard, and it is the duty of the Labour Department to inspect the camps at regular intervals.

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Safety, Health and Welfare

The Safety, Health and Welfare Branch of the Labour Department is under the charge of an Assistant Labour Commissioner with a staff of three Labour Officers and one Labour Inspector.

(1) A Factory Inspector is charged with the inspection of factories and machinery—to ensure the safety, health and welfare of employees under the Factory Ordinance 1946. This officer enforces:—

(a) the general safety provisions regarding: fencing of machinery, hoists, vessels containing dangerous liquids, the maintenance of floors and stairs, dangerous fumes in confined spaces, inflammable dust, vapours and substances, fire precautions and the inspection of steam boilers, steam and air receivers, chains, cranes and lifting tackles ;

(b) the general health provisions dealing with cleanliness, overcrowding, cubic space, temperature, ventilation, lighting, drainage and sanitary conveniences ;

(c) the general welfare provisions dealing with messrooms, cloakrooms, washing facilities, wholesome drinking water, sitting facilities and first aid arrangements ;

(d) the general provisions of Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (No. 13 of 1931 and subsequent amendments) ; and

(e) the provisions of the Women, Young Persons, and Children Ordinance No. 37 of 1934 re: night work of Women and Young Persons employed in Industry and minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment.

(2) A female Camp Welfare Inspector charged with the inspection of quarters of workers housed by employers and the inspection of estate dispensaries and hospitals where these workers are given free medical attention under the provisions of the Labour Ordinance No. 47 of 1938.

This Officer enforces the housing regulations dealing with size of rooms, their openings, kitchens, bathroom and latrine accommodation, water-supply, camp yard sanitation, overcrowding and payment of maternity benefits to employed women in confinement cases.

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Efforts are also made by this branch of the Department under the provisions of the Shop Hours' Ordinance No. 3 of 1942 and No. 56 of 1945, to ensure the health and welfare of all the shop-employees of the island in so far as weekly half-holiday, ventilation, temperature, lighting, sitting facilities, washing facilities, sanitary conveniences, messrooms, meal times are concerned.

A Safety, Health and Welfare Committee has been appointed and meets from time to time for the discussion of relevant measures.

Industrial Training

Apprenticeship schemes: The Apprenticeship Ordinance 1946 provides for the regulation of employment of apprentices and under this Ordinance, the Heavy Engineering Trade, the Automobile Repair trade and the Printing Industry have been designated.

Apprenticeship Committees meet periodically for the discussion of questions dealing with apprentices and their welfare.

The Employment Registration Bureau, which was opened at the beginning of the Year 1949, is organized in three main centres and ten sub-centres. The Manager of the Bureau is also the Statistician of the Labour Department.

The Employment Branch of the Reabsorption Office which was responsible for the resettlement of ex-servicemen was amalgamated in September 1950 with the Employment Registration Bureau. The Bureau has now on its staff two placing officers, three interviewing officers, two travelling interviewing officers, and twelve clerks.

The purpose of the Bureau is to put employers seeking workers in touch with workers seeking employment. The worker is classified on the basis of an evaluation of all his occupational qualifications as shown by work-experience, training and personal characteristics ; workers may also be trade-tested whenever and wherever necessary and are graded accordingly. Vocational guidance is given to certain categories, especially to demobilised ex-servicemen.

Government department vacancies which are not filled by advertisement and a Staff Selection Board are filled by the Employment Registration Bureau.

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Labour Organisations

Labour has organised itself into 42 associations of Trade Unions composed of 18 associations of employees, including one General Workers Union in Rodrigues, 7 of employers, 14 of Government servants and 3 of persons either working for themselves or hiring out their services. The total membership on the rolls is given as 31,685 of which 17,350 are paid up members. Six associations are in a dormant state.

The most important workers' organisations are:—

	No shown on roll	*No. who have ceased to be members*	*No. of members on 31.12.53*
Sugar Industry Staff Employees Association ...	565	—	565
General Port and Harbour Workers' Union ...	2,242	150	2,092
Mauritius Government Manual Workers' Union...	1,456	950	506
General Workers' Union	3,804	2,497	1,307
Government Servants and Employees' Association	1,597	578	1,019
Railway Workers' Union	846	315	531
Government Teachers Union	475	375	100
Aided Primary School Teachers' Union	554	88	466
Mauritius Amalgamated Labourers' Association	11,395	6,188	5,207
Senior Professional Civil Servants Association	112	—	112
Mauritius Agricultural Workers' Union	3,694	2,754	940

The most important employers' organisations are:—

	No. of Members on 31.12.53
Sugar Producers' Association	29
Federation of Port and Harbour Employers	12
Tobacco Producers' Syndicate	45
Planters' Association	1,873

There were no labour stoppages in 1953. All minor disputes were settled amicably, almost invariably on advice of labour officers.

Legislation

The main legislation affecting labour relations is:—

The Labour Ordinance	No. 47 of 1938
The Labour (Amendment) Ordinance ...	No. 33 of 1952
The Women and Young Persons and Children Ordinance	No. 37 of 1934, No. 16 of 1935 No. 43 of 1945, No. 5 of 1952
The Factories Ordinance	No. 42 of 1946

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LEGISLATION—*continued*

The Shop Hours Ordinance	No. 3 of 1942 No. 56 of 1945 and No. 72 of 1946
The Shops (Amendment) Ordinance ...	No. 9 of 1952
The Industrial Associations Ordinance ...	No. 7 of 1938
The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance ...	No. 13 of 1931 as variously amended, No. 64 of 1947 and No. 78 of 1952
The Employment Exchange Ordinance ...	No, 67 of 1947
The Trade Disputes Ordinance	No. 68 of 1947
The Minimum Wages Ordinance	No. 36 of 1950
The Apprenticeship Ordinance	No. 13 of 1946
The Recruitment of Workers Ordinance ...	No. 3 of 1938
The Emigration Ordinance	No. 12 of 1933 G.N. 156 of 1951
The Printing Workers (Minimum Wage Order)	No. 136 of 1952 No. 172 of 1953
The Minimum Wages Order—Messengers ...	G.N. No. 4 of 1953
The Minimum Wages Order—Female Factory Workers	G.N. No, 27 of 1953
The Minimum Wages Order—Bus Drivers and Conductors	G.N. No. 173 of 1953

THE EX-SERVICEMEN'S WELFARE FUND

In common with other countries, Mauritius has had to provide machinery for the resettlement in civil life of the thousands of men and women who were on active service during the war. A National Service Office, which functioned until the end of June 1948, consisted of two branches: the Reabsorption Office and the Occupational Registration. The latter has been closed down, and the Reabsorption Office has been divided into two sections: the Employment Branch and the Assistance Branch. The Employment Branch has been amalgamated with the Employment Registration Bureau. The Assistance Branch is under a Supervisor employed by the Ex-servicemen's Welfare Fund Committee. This Committee is responsible for the distribution of approximately Rs 400,000 annually with the object of resettling ex-servicemen in civil life. Help is limited to those who served in the Forces during the war years. Help usually takes the form of providing tools, paying off debts, paying transport to find work, paying for medical benefits not obtainable from the Government hospitals, and paying for retraining and similar purposes.

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Chapter 3—Public Finance and Taxation

The following tables give a comparison under main Heads of Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the years ended 30th June, 1939, 1952 and 1953.

Revenue

Main Head	Year ended 30th June 1939 Rs	1952 Rs	1953 Rs
1. Customs	5,902,101	20,753,495	21,615,749
2. Port, Harbour and Light Dues ...	549,500	1,243,386	1,539,741
3. Licences, Excise and internal Revenue not otherwise classified	6,510,242	20,578,530	23,360,105
3 (*a*) Income Tax	—	27,113,374	29,819,598
4. Fees of Court or Office and payments for Specific Services ...	851,782	4,080,276	4,214,066
5. Reimbursements	1,446,273	2,290,847	3,454,385
6. Rent of Government Properties ...	229,220	553,930	474,079
7. Interest	486,474	994,468	1,488,597
8. Miscellaneous Receipts	328,054	2,610,857	2,082,356
9. Posts, Telegraphs and Wireless ...	370,610	898,626	1,074,740
10. Land Sales	329	3,380	—
11. Special Revenue	788,462	1,143,592	857,091
12. Railways	371,933	347,935	25,681
13. Colonial and Development Fund ...	15,858	—	—
TOTAL	17,850,838	82,612,696	90,006,188

Expenditure

Main Head	Year ended 30th June 1939 Rs.	1952 Rs.	1953 Rs.
1. Public Debt	2,292,014	2,834,592	3,165,115
2. Pensions and Gratuities	1,695,428	5,024,593	6,219,962
3. Governor	82,659	113,256	193,197
4. Accountant General	197,112	201,146	521,235
5. Agriculture	542,286	1,054,863	2,035,488

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EXPENDITURE—*continued*

Main Head	*Year ended 30th June* 1939 Rs	1952 Rs	1953 Rs
6, Audit	79,185	113,883	254,728
7. Central Administration	88,893	574,933	1,189,173
8. Central Statistical Office	—	77,111	191,488
9. Civil Aviation	—	233,262	539,084
10. Customs and Excise	—	781,151	1,442,917
10*a*. Customs, Harbour, Port and Marine	613,206	—	
11. Development and Welfare	—	500,000	500,000
12. District Administration	—	89,354	167,149
13. Ecclesiastical...	211,914	198,707	423,488
14. Education	1,441,412	5,576,999	12,124,582
15. Electricity	178,248	1,634,712	2,970,402
16. Fire Services	—	270,436	557,560
17. Forests	203,331	1,136,525	2,249,798
18. Granary	79,421	154,172	267,841
19. Harbour and Quays	—	962,818	2,185,536
20. Health	1,477,202	5,447,097	8,407,699
21. Jndicial	402,390	607,577	1,173,577
22. Labour	770,307	271,553	437,246
23. Legal	99,564	100,680	215,697
24. Legislature	12,889	268,913	674,613
25. Mauritius Institute (Public Library and Museum)	17,115	42,247	109,919
26. Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force	—	63,296	105,867
27. Military	935,903	1,008,310	1,007,442
28. Miscellaneous	1,107,217	1,582,242	2,575,216
29. Observatory	41,543	138,554	282,716
30. Police	970,903	2,557,888	5,168,684
31. Poll Tax	—	—	—
31 (a) Income Tax	—	153,180	322,339
32. Posts and Telegraphs	322,521	1,002,063	1,917,748
33. Printing Office	107,772	459,676	649,242
34. Prisons and Industrial School ...	178,741	644,610	1,076,863
35. Public Assistance	—	1,941,535	3,103,863
36. Public Works and Surveys	340,007	1,173,513	2,525,685
37. Public Works–Annually Recurrent..	1,039,379	3,367,790	6,157,050
38. Public Works–Extraordinary ...	228,204	1,844,097	4,557,323
39. Railways	765,444	1,886,282	2,699,284
40. Registrar General	113,897	137,256	293,292
41. Special Expenditure...	6,788,462	4,219,411	643,689
42. Subventions	—	2,242,497	1,727,044
43. Emergency Services...	—	20,242,433	*5,889,975
44. Development and Welfare :—			
Municipal	398,317	—	—
Harbour	143,755	—	—
Industrial School	34,298	—	—
Loan Redemption	—	926,220	9,238
TOTAL	24,000,939	73,861,433	88,930,054

*Decrease due to transfer of cost of living allowances under various departmental heads.

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Public Debt

The Public Dept of the Colony on the 30th June, 1953, was Rs 62·3 million including Rs 33·2 million which have been re-lent to the Agricultural Bank, the Sugar Industry, H.M. Government, the Municipality and Town Councils and miscellaneous borrowers.

Local Loan issues accounted for Rs 13,509,500 of the Public Debt as detailed below:—

	Rs.
Agricultural Loan (No. 1) 1937	1,680,000
Agricultural Loan (No. 2) 1937	1.600,000
Mauritius War Loan 1941	4,000,000
Mauritius Loan 1961	3,157,500
Mauritius Development and Welfare Loan 1971—81 ...	3,072,000
Total ...	13,509,500

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

(Omitting Special Funds deposited in the Public Treasury).

Liabilities	*Rs*	Assets	*Rs*	*Rs*
Other Government ...	238,191	Advances ...		30,516,670
Deposits	3,024,000	Cash Balance etc.	8,470,169	
Mauritius Development and Welfare Fund ...	11,975,627	Investments ...	23,040,936	
Joint Colonial Fund ...	3,373,333		31,511,105	
Loan Funds unexpended	125,064	Deduct balance of Special Funds etc. in the hands of the Accountant General ...	5,909,376	25,601,729
Reserve Fund	12,000,000			
General Revenue Balance	25,382,184			
	56,118,399			56,118,399

Main Heads of Taxation and their Yield

	1951–52	*1952–53*
	Rs	*Rs*
Customs :—		
Import Duties	20,255,608	21,105,982
Export Duties	30,023	57,675
Excise duty on rum	4,860,681	7,824,540
Tobacco Excise	5,364,752	4,942,383
Licence Duties	4,054,314	4.513,259
Income Tax (Individuals)	11,383,665	12,030,241
Companies Tax	15,728,894	17,770,037
Tax on Sweepstakes and Lotteries ...	1,029,937	1,158,924

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THE NATIONAL INCOME FOR 1952 WAS CALCULATED BY THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE TO BE Rs. 518,000,000

Details of calculation are as follows :—

Net National Product Industrial Origin	*Rs (millions)*	%
1. Agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing ...	166	30·9
2. Mining and quarrying	—	—
3. Manufacturing ...	118	21·9
4. Construction	23	4·3
5. Electricity, water and sanitary services ...	4	0·7
6. Transportation, storage and communication ...	87	16·2
7. Wholesale and retail trade	42	7·8
8. Banking, insurance and real estate ...	5	0·9
9. Ownership of dwellings	34	6·3
10. Public administration and defence ...	20	3·7
11. Services	39	7·3
12. Gross Domestic Product at factor cost ...	538	100
13. Less Provision for the consumption of fixed capital	−29	—
14 Net Domestic Product at Factor cost... ...	509	100
15. Plus Net factor income from the rest of the world	+9	—
16. NET NATIONAL PRODUCT AT FACTOR COST	518	100

National Income Distribution	*Rs (millions)*	%
1. Compensation of employees	266	51·3
2. Incomes from farms, properties and other unincorporated enterprises received by households	103	19·9
3. Income from property received by households and private non-profit institutions	91	17·6
4. Saving of corporations...	27	5·2
5. General Government income from property and entrepreneurship ...	20	3·9
6. Direct taxes on corporations	18	3·5
	525	101·4
7. Less Interest on public debt	−3	−0·6
8. Less Interest on consumers' debt	−4	−0·8
9. NATIONAL INCOME ...	518	100

Net National Expenditure Composition	*Rs (millions)*	%
1. Private consumption expenditure on goods and services	386	69·1
2. General Government consumption expenditure on goods and services	66	11·8
3. Net domestic fixed capital formation of private enterprises	60	10·7
4. Net domestic fixed capital formation of Government and public enterprises	26	4·7
5. Net exports of goods and services	12	2·1
6. Net factor income payments from rest of the world	9	1·6
7. Net National Expenditure at market prices ...	559	100
8. Less Indirect taxes ...	−44	—
9. Plus Subsidies	+ 3	—
10. NET NATIONAL EXPENDITURE AT FACTOR COST	518	100

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Comparative figures of National Income Growth supplied by Central Statistical Office are as follows :—

Year	National Income	Increase		Resident Population December 31 in each year	National Income per capital	
	Rs*	Rs*	%		Rs†	Increase%
1948	298	—	—	441,540	674·9	—
1949	351	53	17·8	456,717	768·5	14·4
1950	409	58	16·5	475.386	860·4	11·9
1951	465	56	13·7	494,519	940·3	9·3
1952	518	53	11·4	509,807	1,016·1	8·1

Customs Tariff

The schedule to the Customs Tariff Ordinance comprises three main sections: Import Duties ; Exemptions ; and Export Duties. Import duty is levied under 90 main items, and is calculated on an *ad valorem* or a specific basis according to the nature of the article. Provision is made in a number of cases for the imposition of a preferential tariff on goods produced or manufactured in the United Kingdom and certain other territories, but admission of the goods to preference is dependent on the production of certain supporting evidence including prescribed certificates of origin and value. In the absence of this information, the general tariff rate is charged. Item 40 imposes a general *ad valorem* duty of 12·5 per cent on all goods not elsewhere specified or not specifically exempted.

The schedules of exemptions contain 58 items and cover the majority of articles normally granted free importation into other colonies.

An export duty is levied on sugar but paid into three special funds: the Rehabilitation Fund, the Labour Welfare Fund and the Price Stabilisation Fund. There is also an export duty on molasses and in addition small duties on goods exported from bond, goods in transit, and goods re-shipped after being landed from distressed vessels.

Excise Duties

Excise duties are levied on colonial spirits (rum), country liquor (Mauritius Fruit Wine), tobacco, matches, denatured spirit (except for power purposes), vinegar, tinctures, drugs and perfumed spirit. The revenue from the production of rum for local consumption rose during the year as a result of the lifting on the 30th September, 1952, of the restriction on the maximum quantity of rum produced for local consumption. This had been limited since 1947 to 1,000,000 litres per annum. The increased supplies reduced the demand for country liquor (Mauritius Fruit Wine) during the year and revenue from Excise duty on it fell accordingly.

* In millions of rupees.
† In rupees.

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Package Tax

A package tax is levied by Ordinance No. 32 of 1951 on all goods shown in the first schedule thereof imported and landed at any port in the Colony.

Subject to a minimum of twenty-five cents on every consignment, the rates vary from Rs 0.05 per 100 on bricks, slates, etc., to Rs 10.00 each on motor vehicles, from Rs 0.05 per 1000 kilos on coal, coke, etc., to Rs 3.00 per 1,000 kilos on machinery and certain metal manufactures. A large range of manufactured goods is leviable at Rs 1.00 per package while another large range is leviable at 1 per cent *ad valorem*.

Exemption was given in the Second Schedule to nineteen items including duty free household effects and personal effects, certain important food-stuffs, earthenware and cement pipes, fertilizers, newsprint and empty containers.

Stamp Duties

Stamp duties are of three kinds.

Schedule A to the Stamps (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1926, specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a duty in proportion to the size of paper used. The tariff ranges from Rs 0.30 to Rs 1.80.

Schedule B specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a fixed stamp duty. The amounts vary from Rs 0.05 to Rs 15.00.

Schedule C specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to an *ad valorem* duty. These include Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Policies of Insurance, Debentures. The duties are mainly on a sliding scale.

The stamp duties collected during the financial year 1952–53 amounted to Rs 593,117.43 in respect of impressed paper. The duties levied by means of adhesive stamps are included in Postal Revenue.

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Income Tax

Full income tax is imposed by the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance (No. 84 of 1950).

The rate of tax applicable to companies is 40 per cent of the amount of chargeable income.

The following schedule shows the tax payable by individuals at various chargeable income levels:—

Chargeable Income	*Rate of Tax*
For every rupee of the first Rs 5.000	10 cents
do. next 5,000	15 cents
do. ,, 5,000	25 cents
do. ,, 10,000	40 cents
do. ,, 25,000	50 cents
do. ,, 50,000	60 cents
Remainder of the chargeable income	75 cents

Collections in the year 1952–53 amounted to Rs 29,819,600 compared with Rs 27,113,000 in 1951–52.

Estate Duty

Although estate duty does not exist in Mauritius, death duty is payable at a rate dependent upon both the relationship to the deceased and the aggregate value of all property passing at death. This system combines the principles of legacy, succession and estate duties, the two first duties being leviable according to the degree of relationship without aggregation of the whole estate and the latter on the aggregate estate irrespective of relationship.

The duty collected during the year 1953 amounted to Rs 614,242.39 as compared with Rs 676,828.43 in 1952.

Local Authorities Finances

The undermentioned table gives comparative figures of revenue and expenditure of the four urban local authorities for the last financial year:—

Local Authority	*Financial year*	*Revenue* Rs c.	*Expenditure* Rs c.
Municipality of Port Louis	1953	2,717,996 47	2,867,771 94
Town Council of Beau Bassin–Rose Hill	1952–53	788,882 57	762,747 73
Town Council of Quatre Bornes ...	1952–53	372,843 25	323,281 90
Town Council of Curepipe	1952–53	1,845,460 25	1,767,656 78

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The main heads are the following:—

Port Louis

REVENUE :—

Items	*Rs.*	*c*
Taxes	1,086,041	95
Rents	201,875	51
Water Supply	151,624	69
Electricity	698,039	41
Government Contribution	412,842	—

EXPENDITURE :—

Items		
Municipal Debt	216,032	—
Establishments	172,091	50
Municipal Services	920 881	—
Electricity	589,424	30
Fire Brigade	334,172	39
Special Expenditure	268,138	60

Beau Bassin—Rose Hill

REVENUE :

Items		
Government Contribution	143.952	—
Property rates	157,920	20
Tenants Tax	30,789	52
Slaughter house fees, etc	31,601	27
Markets	36,497	75
Rent Town Hall and theatre	42,262	82
Entertainment Duty	49,496	95

EXPENDITURE :—

Items		
Public Debt	85,417	00
Public Works	207,738	98
Sanitary Services	114,235	15
Miscellaneous	144,926	01

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Quatre Bornes

REVENUE :—

Items	
Immoveable property tax	82,066 11
Government Contribution	106,242 00
Rent of Town Hall	13,870 00
Arrears Government Contribution ...	132,150 00

EXPENDITURE : —

Items	
Puhlic Works	119,173 84
Sanitary Services	44,344 06
Cost of Road Motor Roller	27,968 50

Curepipe

REVENUE :—

Items	
Government Contribution	110,000 00
House rate	323,930 42
Tenants' tax	36,399 67
Market and slaughter house	58,244 13
Rent	43,392 74

SPECIAL REVENUE :—

Government loan—Housing scheme ...	600,000 00
Sugar Industry loan (Welfare Fund) ...	300,000 00

EXPENDITURE :—

Items	
Debt	72,483 76
Public Works	287,710 71
Sanitary Services...	129,721 84

SPECIAL EXPENDITURE :—

Housing Scheme	397,726 53
Sugar Industry loan (Welfare Fund) ...	449,867 94

DISTRICT AND VILLAGE COUNCILS

The three District Councils established under Ordinance 76 of 1951 receive all subsidies and grants from the Government and allocate them to the Village Councils, according to estimates approved by the District Councils. In addition to any taxation which may be imposed by the Village Councils, the District Councils have the right to levy taxes which do not apply to any particular village, such as advertisement and placard tax, and entertainment tax. The total budget for the 81 Village Councils amounted to approximately Rs 377,000. Government subsidy was approximately to Rs 234,000. Revenue from Entertainment Tax totalled Rs 60,940.

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Chapter 4—Currency and Banking

Currency

The local unit of currency is the Mauritius rupee, equivalent to 1sh. 6d. sterling, divided into 100 cents.

The notes in circulation are of denominations Rs 10, Rs 5, and Re 1. There is also a note of Rs 1,000 denomination which is legal tender only in so far as transactions between the banks carrying on business within the Colony and the Government are concerned.

The coins in circulation are the cupro-nickel rupee, half-rupee, quarter rupee and 10 cents, and the bronze 5–cent, 2–cent and 1–cent pieces.

The value in circulation at the end of the three last financial years was:—

	30th June, 1951	*30th June, 1952*	*30th June, 1953*
	Rs	*Rs*	*Rs*
Notes ...	34,985,497	42,903,000	48,161,000
Coins ...	2,462,340	3,127,750	3,282,400
TOTAL ...	37,447,837	46,030,750	51,443,400

Local Banks

Three trading banks operate in Mauritius: The Mauritius Commercial Bank, the Mercantile Bank of India Ltd., and Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.).

Savings bank facilities are provided for by the Post Office Savings Bank, The Mauritius Agricultural Bank, The Mauritius Commercial Bank, Port Louis, and at their Curepipe and Rose Hill Branches, Barclays Bank (D.C.&O.), and the Mercantile Bank of India Ltd. The present trading bank facilities are adequate for the needs of the island, but, apart from the Mauritius Agricultural Bank and the co-operative credit movement, Mauritius is not well served by other financial institutions, more particularly those specializing in long-term loans to individual borrowers for such purposes as housing. Loans against mortgages are, of course, obtainable from private sources.

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The Mauritius Commercial Bank was established in 1838. Its paid up capital was increased in 1948 from Rs 2,000,000 to Rs 3,000,000, the latter sum being made up of 15,000 shares of Rs 200 per share. The Bank's Agents in London are Lloyds Bank Ltd, London. The total amount of deposits at the Head Office and the two branches on the 31st December, 1953, was Rs 58,276,472, and reserves stood at Rs 3,781,725.

The Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd, took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius Ltd, on 31st May, 1916. The paid-up capital of the Bank at 31st December, 1953, was £.1,050,000 and Reserve Funds amounted to £1,500,000. Through its Head Office in London and its branches throughout the Far East, the Mercantile Bank of India Ltd, is able to offer very comprehensive banking facilities to the people of Mauritius.

Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) had a paid-up capital of £9,276,875 as at 30th September, 1953, and a Reserve Fund of £8,000,000 at the same date.

This Bank, which is affiliated with Barclays Bank Ltd, was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836 and reincorporated by Act of Parliament in 1925 after which the name was changed from the Colonial Bank to Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) which then amalgamated with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank Ltd and the National Bank of South Africa Ltd. A branch of the last-named Bank was established in Mauritius in December 1919. In February 1926, its business was taken over by Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) following the amalgamation already mentioned.

The Bank acts as agents for Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Ltd.

Post Office Savings Bank

The Post Office Savings Bank is operated by the Posts and Telegraphs department. At the 30th June, 1953, the Bank had 56,085 active accounts and 23,023 dormant accounts with a balance due to depositors of Rs 25,346,852. Savings Bank business is transacted at 31 Post Offices. During 1953 transactions amounted in number and value to 93,474 deposits totalling Rs 14,300,760 and 57,260 withdrawals totalling Rs 12,948,099. Accounts are regarded as dormant if no transaction takes place for a period of twenty years.

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The Mauritius Agricultural Bank

The Mauritius Agricultural Bank was established by Ordinance 1 of 1936 as a " body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal " . . . " for the purpose of making long-term loans for agricultural needs."

It started its activities in 1937 with capital funds amounting to Rs 10,000,000 which were raised on loans, locally and overseas by Government. Of this amount Rs 320,000 has been reimbursed by the Bank which had also contributed at 31st December, 1953, Rs 1,069,920 to a Sinking Fund.

The first change in the constitution of the Bank occurred in 1940 when the minimum for loans (which had been Rs 5,000) was abolished and to finance loans for amounts under Rs 5,000 the Bank was authorised to draw Bills on the Treasury.

The Mauritius Economic Commission (1948) recommended that the Bank's capital be increased and the scope of its activities extended to meet the needs of industrial as well as agricultural enterprises.

Legislation was passed to this effect and to authorise the Bank to make long-term loans for housing. (Ordinance 68 of 1950,.

In 1949 the Bank had been authorised to raise Rs 3,000,000 from the public by the sale of short-term bills. In terms of Ordinance 68 of 1950 it was further empowered:

(a) to raise funds from the public by the issue of long-term debentures ; by the issue of subscription debentures payable monthly and quarterly ; by accepting fixed deposits for 12–36 months and savings deposits.

(b) to arrange long-term loans and bank overdrafts.

One of the aims in authorising the Bank to raise funds from the public was the encouragement of saving in the Colony and it was hoped that the wide choice of investments would prove attractive.

The response from the public has, so far, been encouraging. At 31st December 1953, there were:—

1,067 Savings Accounts for Rs 1,127,244.

365 Fixed Deposits Accounts for Rs 2,583,390.

244 Accounts for Subscription Debentures involving monthly payments of Rs 12,675 and quarterly payments of Rs 1,050.

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At 31st December 1953, the Bank had paid out Rs 43,284,455 in loans, of which:—

	Rs
	37,578,985 for agriculture
	5,630,470 for housing
	75,000 for industry
TOTAL ...	43,284,455

The Bank has been entrusted with the management of the loans granted under the 1945 Hurricane Loan Ordinance, the Rehabilitation of Factories and Rolling Stock Ordinance, (1949), and the Aloe Industry Development Ordinance, (1952). The total amount outstanding on its books due by borrowers was at 31st December, 1953, Rs 48,673,648 of which Rs 31,727,545 Agricultural Bank loans proper, including Rs 5,179,117 for housing loans, Rs 12,345,672 due by borrowers under the 1945 Hurricane Loan Ordinance, Rs 4,296,681 due by borrowers under the Rehabilitation of Factories and Rolling Stock Ordinance and Rs 303,750 due by borrowers under the Aloe Industry Development Ordinance.

The demand for loans had been so far in excess of the resources of the Bank that throughout most of 1953 applications for loans exceeding Rs 5,000 could not be entertained.

The following is a summary of the Bank's balance sheet as at 31st December 1953:—

LABILITIES	Rs	ASSETS	Rs
Treasury	10,368,670	Loans	31,727,545
Debentures and Sub-Debentures	12,240,688	Cash	584,461
Deposits	6,710,634	Investments	1,083,749
Short-term Bills ...	2,656,050	Other Assets	335,204
Internal A/Cs and other liabilities	356,664	Sinking Fund Contributions	1,069,920
Sinking Fund	1,069,920		
Reserves and Profit and Loss A/C	1,398,253		
	34,800,879		34,800,879
		Hurricane Loan 1945 ...	12,345,672
Funds administered on behalf of the Colonial Government	16,972,103	Rehabilitation Loans ...	4,296,681
		Aloe Industry Loans ...	303,750
		Cash	26,000
TOTAL	51,772,982	TOTAL	51,772,982

The Bank is self-supporting and its running expenses are low.

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BANKING STATISTICS

NUMBER OF REPORTING BANKS : 4

Figures for end of month 31st December, 1953

LIABILITIES	Rs
1. Notes in circulation	—
2. Deposits :—	
(*a*) Demand	88,281
(*b*) Time	16,156
(*c*) Savings	4,245
3. Balances due to :—	
(*a*) Other banks in the Colony	1,316
(*b*) Banks abroad	4,781
4. Other liabilities etc., ...	44,436
TOTAL LIABILITIES	159,215

ASSETS	Rs
1. Cash	4,631
2. Balances due by other banks in the Colony ...	1,528
3. Balances due from banks abroad	71,694
4. Loans and advances :—	
(*a*) Primary production (including processing of primary products)	36,335
(*b*) Other industries (including Commerce, Transport and Distribution)	10,495
(*c*) Other advances	22,982
5. Investments :—	
(*a*) Local	2,531
(*b*) Other	2,649
6. Other Assets	6,370
TOTAL ASSETS	159,215

NOTE :—The figures above are in thousand Rupees to the nearest thousand.

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Bank Rates

The buying and selling rates for telegraphic transfers were at the end of 1953 roughly as under:—

	Buying	*Selling*
British Sterling		
Under £5,000	Rs 13.25 per £	Rs 13.43 per £
£5,000 and over	Rs 13.26 ⅜ per £	Rs 13.40 ,,
Canadian Dollars	Rs 4.78 per $	Rs 4.90 per $
U.S.A. Dollars	Rs 4.72 ⅛ ,,	Rs 4.80 ,,
South African Pounds		
Under £5,000	Rs 13.20 per £	Rs 13.45 per £
£5,000 and over	Rs 13.20 ,,	Rs 13.42 ,,
Australian Pounds	Rs 10.60 ,,	Rs 10.85 ,,
French Francs		
France	Rs 1.34 per 100 francs	Rs 1.38 per 100 Francs
Reunion and Madagascar	Rs 2.68 ,,	Rs 2.78 ,,
Swiss Francs	Rs 1.08 per franc	Rs 1.11 per Franc
India	Par	1% premium
Pakistan	Rs 1.42 per pak. rupee	Rs 1.45½ per pak. rupee
Ceylon	Par	1 3/16% premium
Hong Kong	Par	1% premium
British East Africa	Rs 0.66½ per shilling	Re 0.67 15/100 per sh.
Rhodesian Pounds	Rs 13.20 per £	Rs 13.55 per £

The control of foreign exchange was maintained in 1953 under the Mauritius Exchange Control Ordinance, 1951, which was enacted on the lines of the United Kingdom Exchange Control Act 1947, and thus ensuring similarity of practice on exchange control matters in the Schedule territories.

Chapter 5—Commerce

The commerce of the Colony depends entirely on the sugar crop which in 1953 yielded 511,262 metric tons—a record figure—as compared with 467,914 metric tons in 1952. The production of high degree alcohol, a byproduct of sugar, has decreased in recent years. Only 14,607 hectolitres were exported in 1953 as compared with 49,625 hectolitres in 1952 and 89,248 hectolitres in 1951. On the other hand, the exportation of molasses, another byproduct of sugar, has been steadily rising, reaching in 1953 the record figure of 67,846 metric tons against 40,537 metric tons in 1952 and 3,601 metric tons in 1951.

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A small part of the Colony's demand for foodstuffs is provided by local production, namely meat, sugar, salt, tea, fruit and vegetables, fish (fresh and dried) and coconut oil. Local industries produce cigarettes, matches, aloe fibre bags for sugar and country liquor (local fruit wines). It is however necessary to supply the greater part of the Colony's needs by imports.

The imports of rice, the staple food of the Colony, in 1953 went up to 58,562 metric tons—the highest figure since 1940—as compared with 41,721 metric tons in 1952. The imports of flour from Australia show no appreciable change: 21,699 metric tons in 1953 against 21,912 metric tons in 1952. Frozen meat was imported from Australia, beef on the hoof from Madagascar and considerable quantities of foodstuffs from the United Kingdom and the Union of South Africa.

The United Kingdom continues to be the principal source of supply for manufactured goods such as textiles, apparel, machinery, motor vehicles, hardware and electrical goods. Large quantities of cotton piece goods are received from India. Fertilizers were imported mainly from United Kingdom, the German Federal Republic and France in 1953.

The following tables shew the direction of trade for imports and exports by value:—

DIRECTION OF IMPORT TRADE

A. Prefential Tariff Countries	*1951*	*1952*	*1953*
United Kingdom	76,392,254	95,033,425	95,988,277
Aden	96,836	74,469	205.103
Australia and New Zealand ...	19,145,496	18,624,508	20,343,915
Bahrain	621,575	5,089,753	2,867,153
British East Africa	4,377,966	1,949,034	3,858,888
British West Indies	1,374	569,685	43,506
Burma	17,405,486	21,036,202	47,194,953
Canada	60,813	18,381	7,808
Ceylon	208,380	300,500	361,980
Cyprus	73,872	111,690	279,730
Eire	22	6	6,434
Hong Kong	1,163,872	1,678,373	2,369,270
India	17,521,833	19,503,040	10,569,185
Pakistan	20,229	17,412	24,253
Rhodesia	254,592	395,288	698,184
Seychelles	400,104	189,128	145,859
Straits Settlements	4,325,361	7,462,706	4,309,098
Sudan	—	—	1,288,135
Union of South Africa	7,436,814	9,464,768	8,849,360
Other Preferential Tariff Countries	51,353	—	71,132
TOTAL	149,558,232	181,518,368	199,482,225

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DIRECTION OF IMPORT TRADE—*continued*

B. General Tariff Countries	*1951*	*1952*	*1953*
	Rs	*Rs*	*Rs*
Belgium	6,033,988	2,758,968	1,539,624
Chile	3,237,454	3,446,241	—
Czechoslovakia	263,672	326,792	224,121
Denmark	91,443	116,312	100,361
Ethiopia	362,323	1,025,182	1,477,941
France	11,867,919	7,457,769	11,892,398
Germany	1,304,276	2,600,967	3,044,062
Holland	1,952,709	2,498,651	1,983,176
Hungary	13,258	80,650	21,542
Iran	2,988,229	84,306	31,257
Italy (*including Sicily*)	269,196	1,242,442	6,509,153
Japan	138,467	1,506,818	348,794
Luxembourg	387,014	239,186	118,084
Madagascar	995,474	13,161,998	4,723,299
Morocco	147,292	218,203	269,132
Netherlands East Indies	82,525	223,380	83,358
Netherlands West Indies ...	915,586	3,130,019	1,167,999
Norway	130,727	199,227	136,376
Poland	13,493	56,504	7,757
Portugal	878,342	517,369	711,319
Portuguese East Africa	147,483	138,820	2,807,302
Russia	101	2,184	5,604
Saudi Arabia	1,558,744	941,650	142,739
Siam	9,094,359	186,379	7,822,966
Spain	234,152	187,076	162,892
Sweden	485,815	949,282	663,950
Switzerland	469,807	499,819	571,216
United States of America ...	3,269,841	4,964,849	3,840,309
Yugoslavia	—	39,959	—
Other Countries	6,108,959	410,275	1,070,500
TOTAL ...	53,442,648	49,211,276	51,477,231
BAGGAGE ...	61,184	70,779	134,299
GRAND TOTAL OF IMPORTS ...	203,002,064	230,800,423	251,093,755

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Direction of Export Trade

A. Preferential Tariff Countries	*1951* Rs	*1952* Rs	*1953* Rs
United Kingdom	129,608,547	121,953,989	163,779,653
Aden	3,945,772	1,713,826	—
Australia and New Zealand ...	127	203,303	34.259
British East Africa	13,055,461	13,373,421	4,566,363
British Somaliland	251,834	503,674	252,007
Canada	5,806,598	9,839,659	40,629,964
Ceylon	51,890,034	54,223,729	20,413,800
Hong Kong	19,597,048	23,698,495	23,690,533
India	162,746	65,113	2,515
Seychelles	364,797	596,310	546,404
Southern Rhodesia	4,763,078	14,952,859	10.777,779
Union of South Africa	476,056	223,054	238,790
Other Preferential Tariff Countries	531,187	40,771	32.425
TOTAL ..	230,453,285	241,388.203	264,964,492
B. General Tariff Countries			
Belgium	189,260	96,070	23,408
France	92,511	176.895	88,903
Germany	—	250,425	9,065
Greece	—	—	484,965
Holland	103,125	130,718	492,600
Italy	—	83,158	46
Madagascar	433,455	1,377,534	629,308
Norway	—	67,623	1,163
Portuguese East Africa	9,872	—	34,024
Reunion	132,766	152,705	383,556
Sweden	—	1,775,213	—
Syria	—	71,483	3
United States of America ...	5,927	7,044	751,858
Other General Tariff Countries...	37,372	11,225	27,116
TOTAL ...	1,004,288	4,200,093	2,926,015
Sugar Quota Certificates ...	5,547,788	6,111,170	6,274,589
GRAND TOTAL OF EXPORTS ...	237,005,361	251.699,466	274,165,096

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TRADE FIGURES

I—IMPORTS*

Principal Imports	*1951* TOTAL=Rs. 203,062,064 *Quantity*	*Value C.I.F. Rs.*	*1952* TOTAL=Rs. 230,800,423 *Quantity*	*Value C.I.F. Rs.*	*1953* TOTAL=Rs. 251,093,755 *Quantity*	*Value C.I.F. Rs.*	*Main Sources of Supply*
Rice	42,965 M. Tons	30,752,574	41,721 M. Tons	35,511,175	58,562 M. Tons	60,180,099	Burma, Siam, Italy and Madagascar.
Wheaten flour	23,476 ,,	12,676,787	21,912 ,,	12,575,030	21,699 ,,	13,293,167	Australia.
Other grain and grain products ...	4,277 ,,	2,959,406	5,373 ,,	4,370,908	6,474 ,,	4,515,644	Australia, Ethiopia, Madagascar and Burma.
Cattle and meat	—	2,097,461	—	2,958.084	—	2,730,715	Australia (meat) and Madagascar (cattle).
Edible oils and fats	3,458 ,,	7,291,239	3,432 ,,	7,022.682	5,469 ,,	11,572,942	Portuguese East Africa, British East Africa, India and Straits Settlements.
Beverages	—	2,517,256	—	2,907,441	—	2,704,955	United Kingdom, France, Spain, Union of South Africa and Holland.
Coal	24.621 ,,	2,177,670	27,086 ,,	2,493,516	28,199 ,,	1,957,423	Union of South Africa and Portuguese East Africa.
Petroleum products	—	7,514,542	—	12,263,534	—	11,525,673	Italy, Bahrain, United Kingdom, France, Netherlands West Indies and United States of America.
Wood and wood manufactures ...	—	3,474,388	—	2,730,566	—	4,307,779	Straits Settlements, Australia, France, Siam and Burma.
Gunny bags	No. 4,529,702	10,189,127	No. 3.430,500	7,858,732	No. 1,407,222	1,672,351	India.
Cotton piece goods	5,053,771 ms	7,754,290	6.348,325 sqms	11,265,571	8,013,594 sqms	10,667,371	United Kingdom, India and Hong Kong.
Silk piece goods	1,824,170 ,,	3,970,981	1,969,138 ,,	4,137,826	2,386,305 ,,	4,812,258	United Kingdom, Italy, India and France.
Woollen piece goods	157,676 ,,	1,880,803	258,702	2,753,240	211,455 ,,	2,346,338	United Kingdom, France and Italy.
Vehicles :—							
(i) Road :—							
(*a*) Motor cars ...	No. 764	5,831,454†	No. 942	6,142.466	No. 753	4,923,125	United Kingdom.
(*b*) Other	—	3,107,339	—	7,233,805	—	7,162.047	United Kingdom and France.
(ii) Railway and tramway locomotives and accessories ...	—	813,853	—	1,473,733	—	1,381,701	United Kingdom and France
(iii) Ships, aircraft and accessories	—	34,578	—	30,551	—	1,285,597	United Kingdom and France.
Cement	20,051 M. Tons	2,751,446	32,337 M. Tons	5,610,967	27,528 M. Tons	3,951,290	United Kingdom and Union of South Africa.
Machinery	4,328 ,,	16,072,430	3,012 ,,	12,779,869	3,844 ,,	19,469,045	United Kingdom, France and U.S.A.
Electrical goods	—	3,629,955	—	4,319,826	—	4,152,046	United Kingdom and Holland.
Iron and steel goods	—	9,837,711	11,671 ,,	14,637,352	10,071 ,,	14,131,769	United Kingdom, Belgium, German Federal Republic, and France.
Manures and Fertilizers ...	39,518 ,,	13,547,493	38,657 ,,	13,916,103	31,940 ,,	9,758,370	United Kingdom, France, and German Federal Republic.
Paper and paper manufactures ...	—	2,016,821	—	2,343,029	1,589 ,,	2,161,989	United Kingdom and Sweden.

* Excluding Bullion and Specie valued at Rs. 1,568,778 in 1951, Rs. 940,200 in 1952 and Rs. 1,063,867 in 1953. † Including Accessories.

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II. EXPORTS*

	1951	1952	1953
	Rs	Rs	Rs
(a) Domestic Exports	227,833,883	242,995,510	264,785,990
(b) Sugar Quota Certificates	5,547,788	6,111,170	6,274,589
(c) Re-Exports	3,623,690	2,592,786	3,104,517
TOTAL EXPORTS	237,005,361	251,699,466	274,165,096

Principal Exports	*Quantity*	*F.O.B. Value Rs*	*Quantity*	*F.O.B. Value Rs*	*Quantity*	*F.O.B. Value Rs*	*Main Countries of Destination*
Sugar ...	505,628 M. Tons	226,396,100†	469,748 M. Tons	238,984,136†	481,892 M. Tons	264,908,589†	United Kindom, Canada, Hong Kong, Ceylon and Southern Rhodesia.
Molasses ...	3,601 ,,	593,828	40,537 ,,	5,950,285	67,848 ,,	4,641,194	United Kingdom, United States of America Holland and Greece.
Rum ...	89,248 Hectol	5,001,826	49,625 Hectol	3,199,504	14,607 Hectol	1,073,704	United Kingdom.
Aloe Fibre ...	626 M. Tons	924,141	506 M. Tons	685,685	142 M. Tons	56,363	Belgium, German Federal Republic and United Kingdom.
Tea	41 ,,	202,374	8 ,,	42,285	33 ,,	170,990	United Kingdom and France.

*Excluding Bullion and Specie valued at Rs 1,336,000 in 1951, NIL in 1952 and 1953.

†Including value of sugar Quota Certificates

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Chapter 6—Production

Land Utilisation and Water Conservation

Mauritius covers an area of 460,800 acres of which about 200,000 acres are under arable cultivation of a very efficient type as compared with many colonial territories. Beyond the crops from this land the Island produces little else with which to meet the requirements of a population numbering just over half a million, or 720 per square mile. The balance of the " agricultural " land is made up of rough meadow, grass and scrub lands including wild-growing aloe fibre, and totals about 118,000 acres.

The non-agricultural lands consist of 88,400 acres of forests and natural reserves, and 54,000 acres of permanent waste lands, built up areas and inland water bodies.

The central and elevated part of the Island, above the 100" isohyet, is mostly covered with forest and scrub land to protect and regulate the water resources. In this area arable cultivation, except tea, is not very conspicuous. No laws specially protecting this natural watershed exist except those giving protection to Mountain and River Reserves and to a coastal belt 250 feet wide known as " Pas Géométriques."

The main upland water catchment area is mostly Crown property and utilized for the production of forest produce, fuel and fodder, with a limited acreage under tea and other crops. Water resources are mainly dependent on the incidence of nearby cyclones bringing rain, most of which falls in the hot season or in the heavy downpours accompanying cyclonic disturbances. Several reservoirs have been constructed in order to hold this water for utilization, both for domestic and irrigation purposes and for the production of electical energy. Progress continued during the year on the construction of the major system of reservoirs which is scheduled for completion in the near future.

Land Ownership

In the early days of French colonization land was conceded to settlers almost all over the Island. Later, land ownership was governed by the French Civil Code or " Code Napoléon," which is still in force. This provides for equal division of property among the heirs, the result, in the case of land, leading ultimately in many cases to excessive fragmentation, especially among the Indo-Mauritian section of the population. The demand for land

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is accentuated by the rapid growth of population, especially of the Asiatic section, leading to the price of land far exceeding its intrinsic value. Grouping of estates into companies has checked fragmentation for the bulk of the land, although for a time speculation led to a system of parcelling known as " morcellement " when large tracts of land were purchased and sold again in numerous small lots.

Land Tenure

The Island was uninhabited when first colonized. Its original permanent settlers were the French who, through the grant of concessions, became the original freehold owners of all the land except Crown Lands. At present, apart from Crown Lands, including Crown Forests and " Pas Géométriques " which total 83,000 acres, the rest of the land is owned in large or small lots by all sections of the community. Roughly 75 per cent is owned by companies and private estates, the remainder being the absolute property of the Indo-Mauritian section of the population. In addition to freehold tenure, land is also held leasehold and on share cropping agreements.

Leasehold tenure is practised to a limited extent on privately-owned lands and on Crown Lands. In the case of Crown Lands leasing is generally by auction to the highest bidder but it may also be by contract, leases varying from 3 to 30 years with security of tenure to satisfactory tenants. Various types of share cropping in the form of metayage exist.

Renting Systems

Rentals are either cash, crop-sharing or " Taungya." Cash rentals are payable monthly, quarterly or annually ; in crop sharing the proportion of the crop handed over as rental varies according to circumstances and nature of crop ; under the " Taungya " system, which is adopted in tree plantations, especially by Government in forest areas, the tenant is permitted to grow vegetables or annual crops between the young trees provided he keeps the trees clear of weeds and recruits them. This is a temporary system as cultivation is discontinued as soon as the trees are developed.

Land and Water Development Programmes

These include provision for:—

(a) increased reservoir construction, both for domestic and irrigation purposes, the latter leading to increased cultivation of land ;

(b) increased generation of electrical power.

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Land Settlement

About 70 years ago the process of parcelling of land known as " Morcellement," and referred to above, began. In the years which followed it gained momentum until some thirty years ago, when, after a last short spurt, it practically ceased to operate, except occasionally at irregular intervals. This has resulted in the automatic, if unorganized, settlement on the land of a very large number of peasant proprietors who, by thrift, became absolute owners of their own plots of land in many localities of the Island. In recent years organized settlement was attempted and a pilot scheme was put under way. The policy at present is to complete the pilot land settlement scheme in order to obtain reliable figures on the economy of such schemes. The first settlement at Petit Sable worked quite satisfactorily in the past year. There are 10 residential small holdings, 40 allotments and 85 onion plots. Small holders are allowed to plant half of their plots with sugarcane, which last year gave very satisfactory yields. The cooperative credit society into which the tenants formed themselves functioned smoothly.

Nineteen (19) tenants were established at Richelieu towards the end of the year after the land had been ripped and cleared of boulders. Work also began on the improvement of irrigation in this area.

At Terre Rouge, over an area of 300 acres ,cleared last year, 102 tenants were established. It has not yet been possible to provide them with irrigation water, but the season was so favourable that serious adverse effects were not experienced. It is expected that water will have been brought to the area by the end of 1954.

There are no laws relating specifically to settlement, but where suitable Crown Lands are not available in any area, Government can use compulsory powers to acquire land under Ordinance 77 of 1952.

Agriculture

Sugar

Mauritius is naturally best adapted for the production of sugar which is the main staple of the Island and on the proceeds of which live a population of half a million. The whole of the production, with the exception of some 20,000 tons consumed locally, is exported, mainly to the United Kingdom.

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In 1953, the production of sugar amounted to 512,076 metric tons. The average annual production of the preceding three years was 457,000 tons. The average yield of cane per acre over the whole island was about 27·7 tons, or 2·5 tons more than in the preceding year.

This increase was due for the most part to conditions exceedingly favourable to vegetative growth, though not so much to the formation of sucrose in the cane, which at 11·03 per cent was lower than last year's figure by 0·40 per cent. The production of sugar per acre was approximately 3·04 tons which is an all time record.

Although a considerable proportion of cane lands is under peasant ownership, mostly Indo-Mauritian, the bulk of the sugar is produced on the plantation scale. The larger plantations, to which a factory is attached, produced about 57 per cent of the total crop. The smaller of the peasant owners, some 15,000 of whom cultivate altogether about 19 per cent of the land under cane, often work their land with the assistance of their families, employing extraneous labour at peak times such as at planting and when harvesting. Many of these small planters have grouped themselves into Co-operative Societies for the purpose of consigning their canes to factories.

The cane is milled in 27 factories which produce from 8,000 to 35,000 tons of sugar per annum. For the most part the factories, with adjoining lands forming estates, are company owned.

The whole of the sugar produced is marketed by the Sugar Syndicate. Since the War the price of Commonwealth sugar was fixed by agreement with the Ministry of Food. In 1953, the provisions of the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement came into force, whereby the United Kingdom undertook to purchase 351,000 long tons of Mauritius sugar at 42/4 per cwt., which represents an increase of 3/10 over last year's price (38/6), the balance of the crop being available for sale at world market prices which are below the negotiated price quoted above.

A considerable part of the available balance for sale on the open market was exported to Canada, to Hong Kong and to Southern Rhodesia.

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The Commonwealth Sugar Agreement has been extended for a further year and will run to the end of 1961. Agreement to this effect was reached between Commonwealth Sugar Producers and the Ministry of Food in November. The " negotiated price " for sugar bought in 1954 under the terms of the Commonwealth Agreement was fixed at £41 per ton, the price for 1953 being £42-6-8 per ton, and the reduction being brought about by a decrease in the index for supplies, particularly for sugar bags and fertilizers. There was no movement in the index of wages and salaries.

It is appropriate here to mention the meeting of and results achieved by the International Sugar Council in the course of the year. World sugar production increased from 27 million metric tons in 1938–39 to 35 million tons in 1951–52. A drop of about 2 million tons occurred in 1952–53, due almost exclusively to Cuba limiting its production to 5 million tons as against 7 million tons in 1951–52. Concurrently the world price, which had reached 52/9 per cwt in June 1951, fell to 24/11½ in April 1953. The international Sugar Council, which for reasons connected with war and immediate post war conditions had been in abeyance, met in November 1952 to study the world sugar situation and reached the conclusion that the best solution to the problem would be the calling of an international conference to draw up an agreement limiting exports. The Conference met in London in July 1953, 46 nations being represented. Agreement was reached in principle, subsequently ratified by the interested governments and comes into force on 1st January 1954. The export quota for Mauritius has been fixed at 470,000 long tons of which the U.K. has undertaken to purchase 351,000 long tons at the negotiated price already mentioned.

Locally, canes are purchased by factories on the basis of ⅔ of the extraction going to the grower, contracts being subject to the control of the Central Board, which functions as part of the organisation of the Department of Agriculture.

One of the major by-products of the sugar industry, alcohol, is produced in 10 distilleries of which a few did not work during part of the year. The production of alcohol amounted to 3,507,615 litres (94° G.L.) of which 2,118,522 litres were exported.

Molasses, another by-product of sugar manufacture, continued to be exported.

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Industrial Crops

Three other crops are grown industrially, but on a small scale compared with sugarcane. These are tea, tobacco and " aloe " fibre.

Tea

Tea is cultivated over an area of 2,585 acres of which approximately 2,236 acres are in full bearing. A good deal of this tea is made up of poor yielding jats. This is reflected in the yield of made tea which was 907,804 lb. last year, representing about 440 lb. per acre. Areas planted with good jat tea yielded up to 1,000 lb. made tea per acre.

Like sugarcane, tea is produced both by plantations and by peasant growers. The latter number 317, an increase of 52 over last year, and cultivate a total of 653 acres, or 2·06 acres on the average. Almost all the small growers and four of the plantation owners are Indo-Mauritians, cultivating about 55·70 per cent of the total area under tea.

Tea is made in five factories two of which are modern and well-equipped. Two others were almost completely rebuilt on modern lines, but were not fully equipped by the end of the year. Work is also proceeding on the renovation of the fifth factory.

The output of these factories varied from 417,560 lb. for the largest to 15,160 lb. for the smallest. Three of the factories are owned by Indo-Mauritians.

Practically the whole of the tea is locally consumed. Production now exceeds consumption and there was a surplus of some 264,000 lb. unsold at the end of the period under review. Attempts to export have not yet met with the success hoped for (exports in 1953 totalled 75,755 lb.) largely owing to high costs of production. These are likely to fall when good jats and improved methods resulting in better yields lower the cost of production to a level when Mauritius tea can compete more successfully on the open market. The price paid on the average to growers for each pound of green leaf was 35 cents of a rupee.

No event of extraordinary importance affected production in field or factory during the year. Considerable progress was made in the opening up of the Government tea estate at Midlands where it is intended to plant up to 500 acres in the next few years.

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Tobacco

Tobacco was grown on 763·95 acres in 1953 ; most of this area was under the variety Amarello, the remainder being under flue-cured Virginian varieties. Production, which was not affected by any factor of exceptional character, reached 495,599 kilos, of which 458,762 kilos came from Amarello leaf. Of the total 298,664 kilos were flue-cured.

Tobacco is entirely grown in small acreages, for the most part by Indian peasant cultivators. None of the tobacco is exported. On the contrary, a certain quantity—about 25 per cent—of Virginian leaf is imported for admixture with local leaf for the manufacture of the better type of cigarette. Cigarettes of lower grades are made entirely of local leaf. Owing to soil and climate characteristics Mauritius is not likely to produce flue-cured Virginian tobacco of sufficiently good colour and aroma for export purposes. It will certainly not happen while Amarello is the principal variety grown.

The area annually grown is determined by the Tobacco Board, an officially constituted body, on which sit representatives of the various interests concerned. Closely connected with it is the Tobacco Warehouse which receives, grades, processes, bales, stores and sells all the tobacco produced in the Colony. Producers received on the average Rs 3·68 per kilo of flue-cured Amarello and Rs 3·92 per kilo of Virginian flue-cured tobacco. Air-cured leaf sold at Rs 2.91 per kilo.

Fibre

The fibre industry depends almost entirely on the so-called " aloe " fibre which is produced by the plant known as Furcraea ; a small acreage of sisal is also grown. Most of the Furcraea fibre is obtained from an indeterminate area carrying wild-growing plants the yield of which is generally conceded to average about ½ a ton per acre per year. In recent years, in view of the development of a factory designed to process the raw fibre into cloth for the making of bags for the sugar industry, it has been possible to arive at a ***modus vivendi*** between fibre producers, sugar manufacturers and the Sack Factory. At the same time increasing interest in the crop has led to the establishment of regular plantations, in order to reduce costs of production. It is estimated that regularly planted fields should be capable of yielding up to 1½ tons of fibre per acre. The Mauritius Hemp Producers' Syndicate estimates that there were in 1953 about 2,800 acres of ***Furcraea*** plantations.

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Probably because of the falling trend of fibre prices, producers have ben reluctant to take up loans for the improvement of their plantations and factories from the sum of 1½ million rupees made available by Government. Applications for loans totalled about 1,200,000 rupees, but loans actually issued during the year did not exceed one third of this figure.

In 1953, 39 decorticating plants produced 2,059 tons of fibre. Fibre is extracted for the most part by machines known as "grattes," i.e., specially modified *raspadores* working against scutching plates, into which the leaves are fed by hand. The fresh or green fibre must then be retted, washed and dried, prior to consigning to the Baling Factory. Recently, certain machines, which, with one exception, are constructed on the same principle as *respadores*, have been evolved, which operate semi-automatically. Attempts to produce fully automatic machines continued during the year, but without outstanding success.

The Sack Factory, which was for most of the year in process of enlargement, absorbed 1,197 tons of Furcraea fibre for the manufacture of 1,203,754 sacks (of 80 kilos capacity), 34,518 yards of cloth for filter presses and a small quantity of yarn for processing into ropes locally.

All the fibre produced is handled by the Mauritius Hemp Producers Syndicate which grades, combs, bales, stores and sells the fibre, either for sack making or for export. In normal years there is very little scope for Furcraea outside Mauritius, but in recent years it has been quite easy to dispose of the small surplusses available for export.

Food Crops

Mauritius imports most of its food requirements. A certain amount of subsidiary foodstuffs and all the protective foods, mostly vegetables and fresh fruits, are locally produced.

Foodcrops were harvested over an area of 8,328 arpents* during the year and yielded approximately 15,000 tons of marketable produce, including 3,000 tons of maize and 5,000 tons of potatoes. Other crops grown were manioc, sweet potatoes, eddoes and groundnuts. Rice was also grown but on a very small scale, only fifty tons being produced.

Some lands carry up to three crops a year and others only one, in accordance with the local climate and also the rotation of sugarcane and field crops.

*One arpent is equivalent to 1.043 acres.

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A severe outbreak of rust disease on maize, caused by " Pucinia Polysor " (Underw.), was observed for the first time in the Colony. It was widespread and in a number of cases was estimated to have caused damage amounting to a 35 per cent reduction of the crop.

There is still considerable competition for land between sugarcane and foodcrops. A reduction of about 600 arpents in the area devoted to foodcrops has occurred in spite of the clearance by the Mechanical Unit of the Board for the growing of sugarcane of a further 926 arpents on which at least one foodstuff crop must be grown.

Practical demonstrations of the use of fertilisers and of methods of crop protection have been carried out in various localities and improvements observed in crop yields suggest that they have been successful. A new demonstration and experimental plot, covering 2 arpents, was started at the end of the year at Vacoas for the benefit of the large number of market gardeners there.

The Food Production Board, which was appointed in 1947, was merged at the end of the year in the new Agriculture and Natural Resources Board. The agricultural equipment belonging to the Board is to be transferred to the Sugar Planters' Mechanical Agricultural Pool, a new organisation which has been formed to assist planters of sugarcane and which will be maintained by funds from the Rehabilitation Fund established under the Sugar Industry Reserve Funds Ordinance. The Department of Agriculture will retain some claim to use of the equipment.

Department of Agriculture

A major change, which occurred towards the end of the year, was the setting up of the Sugar Industry Research Institute to replace the Sugarcane Research Station of the Department of Agriculture and to take over and expand its work.

One reason for the change is that Government has been unable, at the Civil Service range of salaries, to recruit and retain the scientific staff required for sugarcane research. The Institute, which is financed by the Sugar Industry and administered by a Board representative of different sections of the industry and of Government, is free from the limitations which public service control must necessarily impose and should therefoore be able to attract the necessary staff. The Department is now composed of 12 divisions with a Director and two Deputy Directors in charge. The full staff of both permanent and temporary Officers numbers 249. There are at present 24 vacancies.

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Staff as at 31st December, 1953

Division	*Present Staff*	*No. of Vacancies*
Administrative Division	14	—
Agricultural Division (including Rodrigues)	30	14
Chemical Division	3	—
Botanical Division	3	1
Central Board	45	2
Entomological Division	6	-
Engineering Division	9	1
Veterinary Division (including Animal Husbandry)	34	4
Fisheries Branch	60	—
Agricultural College	7	1
Tea Division	7	1
Land Settlement Division	7	—
TOTAL	225	24

The policy of the Agricultural Department is to promote the most efficient use of all lands available for and capable of cultivation and to foster the most efficient production of livestock and livesock products.

The basis of Mauritian agriculture is sugarcane which covers most of the available arable land. But there are areas in certain parts of the island which are not specially suited for sugarcane and these are under close study for the development of other crops, such as tea, fibre and pasture, which fit particularly well into the ecological picture: tea and grass in the high rainfall zone, fibre and fodder in the drier regions. Tobacco, now a well-established secondary industry producing for local consumption only, is also catered for. In addition to crops, the Department is actively engaged in the improvement of livestock, mainly with the object of increasing the milk production.

The attainment of greater self-sufficiency in foodcrops, vegetables and fruits is also part of the agricultural policy, although there are definite limitations in this direction.

As part of the machinery to implement policy for the most intensive utilization of the Colony's resources, the Board of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Fisheries was created to take over the functions of numerous separate boards, committees and organisations, at present concerned directly or indirectly with matters related to agriculture and to natural resources generally. The Board was proclaimed to become operative with effect from 1st January, 1954.

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Veterinary Division

The Veterinary Division of the Department of Agriculture consists of a staff of 37 Officers with a Senior Veterinary Officer at its head. For practical purposes the Animal Husbandry Division operates to a large extent independently under an Animal Husbandry Officer. The policy of the Division, broadly speaking, is the improvement of livestock and livestock products generally in the Colony.

Animal Husbandry

Number and Description of Livestock

The last Census, made in 1950, gave the following figures:—

Bovines	40,282
Goats	53,561
Sheep	2,013
Pigs	4,009

Of the 40,000 bovines, 32,000 are of the local or "creole" milk breed whose ancestry goes back probably to the Scandinavian polled mountain breed of Viking days. These animals are small, compact, polled and of fine bone; white is the predominating colour. They are owned mostly by the Indo-Mauritian peasant class under whose management they average 1,400 lb of milk (3·9 per cent fat) per lactation of 200/250 days. This yield could easily be doubled under good conditions of feeding, housing and handling. The remaining 8,000 head of cattle are of zebu origin; some 5,000 of them are kept on sugar estates for the production of manure, the balance being mostly owned by Indo-Mauritians and used for haulage work.

The goats are a mixed lot of the Barbari type and are for the most part kept by peasants for slaughter. They produce only enough milk for their kids. The sheep are a non-descript lot in which Black-Head Persian blood now predominates. They do not thrive well and are chiefly owned by estates on the coastal belt. The pigs are, for the most part, degenerate descendants of European breeds introduced in the past. They are peasant owned, many surviving largely by scavenging. Poultry consists of birds of the vulture necked type and scrubs of various European breeds.

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Production and Marketing

Some 6,500 local bovines are slaughtered annually for the Colony's meat supply, in addition to the cattle imported for this purpose from Madagascar and Rodrigues.

The only animal products processed are tanned hides and bone meal obtained from the animals slaughtered for meat.

About 120,000 gallons of milk are produced annually and consumed fresh. This represents a little over one ounce of fresh milk per head of population per day ; in recent years, importations of milk preparations have increasingly made up for this obvious deficiency. At the same time, attempts have been made to organize milk producers for the sale of their produce, but these have not yet borne fruit.

Milk producers receive on an average 25 cents of a rupee (about 5d) per litre. The retailer re-sells at 40 cents on the average usually after an illegal and often undetected addition of water. Cattle fetch Rs 1.15 (1/9d) per pound dressed weight, pigs Rs 2.50 (3/9d) per pound live weight and goats and sheep about 40 rupees (£3) each.

The Government maintains an experimental dairy in the uplands and a centre for cattle breeding and improvement on the coast.

Recent investigations into breeding problems connected with the improvement of cattle for milk production indicate that selection of the local acclimatised cattle, which possesses the milk producing characteristics, is more promising than attempts to grade up by the introduction and maintenance at a high degree of Friesland blood. The policy has now been orientated towards selective breeding within the " creole " bred so far as milk production is concerned.

Recent livestock introductions include Ongole cattle from India to improve zebu herds, Anglo-Nubian milk goats from England and Dorsian sheep from South Africa.

The poultry improvement scheme started in 1952 whereby scrub cockerels were exchanged for locally-bred pure White Leghorns has not met with the success it deserved. Efforts in this direction, however, are continuing.

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As regards pest and disease control, considerable progress has been made in the elimination of contagious abortion among the milk cows kept at the Government Dairy, in the enucleation of ovarian cysts among a large number of the milk cows and in the treatment of hypocalcoemia.

Water supply for livestock poses no serious problem anywhere in Mauritius.

Fisheries

Principal Fishing Areas and Methods

Fishing is practised:—

(a) in the lagoon surrounding most of the island, which covers an area of about 95 square miles ;

(b) off shore on the shelf to the 100 fathoms water line which is extensive in the northern part forming a bank of about 200 square miles with an average depth of 35 fathoms ;

(c) on the remote banks of the South Indian Ocean.

In local waters, seine nets, traps and lines are used ; on the banks fishing is done with lines from light pinnaces around the mother ship.

About 1,800 fishermen with some 900 light fishing boats and a number of deep-sea pinnaces are engaged in fishing the 2,000 tons which form the average annual catch. An interesting trend is the larger number of pinnaces equipped with marine engines for off-shore fishing. This has been fostered by the issue of about 60,000 rupees in the form of loans made under the Development and Welfare programme for the purchase of motors. Concurrently, a number of lagoon fishermen have been equipping their light craft with 3½ h.p. outboard motors without outside assistance. These developments should eventually result in a greater supply of fish to the population and a more congenial occupation for the people engaged in the fishing industry.

Usualy middlemen supply crafts and gear to the fishermen who in return bring their catch at an agreed price. The middlemen is expected to make advances during periods of forced idleness. It appears that an increasing number of fishermen are freeing themselves of this bondage.

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The local catch is entirely consumed locally. The price varies with the abundance of fish ; it is generally lower during the summer months when more fish is caught. There was no fish available for export until fishing on the remote banks was developed. This venture is still in its infancy.

The control of fisheries is exercised by a Fisheries Branch placed under the Director of Agriculture. This consist of a Fisheries Officer and an inspectorate of 59 inspectors and guards who are responsible for the enforcement of the laws regulating fisheries, the collection and establishment of statistics, and the study and implementation of all new measures which might be recommended for the better protection of the stock or to improve the efficiency of the industry or for the welfare of the fishing community.

A Fisheries Advisory Board studies all matters of policy and makes recommendations.

Funds have been available, under Development and Welfare, for improvement schemes. The principal aims are the increase of the catch of the deep sea fishermen by mechanisation of the pinnaces and the study of fresh water fish farming. These constitute recent developments and no results are available as yet for publication.

Forestry

Important events of the year which have affected forestry in general.—The Forest Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies toured the forests of the island during the period 26th September to 4th October.

The Director General *des Eaux et Forêts* in Reunion, Mr. J. M. Miguet, paid an unofficial visit to Mauritius from 14th August to 21st August. During his stay Mr. Miguet was able to visit all the major centres of forest work in the island, and also the larger blocks of the remaining indigenous forests in which he was particularly interested.

Areas of different types of forest.—The statement below gives particulars of the different types of forested areas in the Colony.

I. *Crown Forest Estate*

Classification	*Acreage*	*Total area in acres*
(i) Native forests (National Reserves)	4,520	
(ii) Productive forests, including plantations of exotics	23,859	
(iii) Catchment areas (Protected forests)	10,602	
(iv) Mountain Reserves (Protected forests)	23,424	
(v) Miscellaneous (Areas leased and not devoted to Forestry)	4,745	
		67,150

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II. *Leased Crown Lands in the coastal belt of 250 feet (Pas Géométriques)*

(i) Tree plantations, mainly Casuarina equisetifolia..	4,400	
(ii) Grazing lands with trees	1,100	
		5,500

III. *Privately owned forested lands*

(i) Mountain Reserves (ii) River Reserves	Protected by law	9,000 6,500		15,500
(iii) Forest Lands (iv) Scrub Lands	Not protected by law	5,800 93,900		99,700
			TOTAL =	115,200
			GRAND TOTAL =	187,850

Policy and methods of management

The Crown Forest Estate.—The Forest Policy of the Government of Mauritius may be briefly summarised as follows:—

(i) To reserve in perpetuity sufficient land either already forested or capable of afforestation in order to safeguard and maintain water supplies, preserve the climatic and physical conditions of the Colony, prevent erosion and silting up of reservoirs, provide forest produce for agricultural, domestic and industrial requirements and to maintain soil stability in areas where the land is liable to deterioration if put to other uses ;

(ii) to manage this Forest Estate so as to obtain the best returns on its capital value and the expenses of management, in so far as such returns are consistent with the primary aims set out above ;

(iii) to set aside in perpetuity as " National Reserves " suitable areas of the native forests of Mauritius and to preserve such areas in their natural state by controlling, and preventing if possible, the intrusion and establishment of other-than-native trees and plants ;

(iv) to encourage and assist the practice of sound forestry by private enterprise, and to educate selected Mauritians in technical forestry.

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In regard to the management of the Crown Forest Estate it is hoped to complete by 1954–55 a Working Plan the detailed prescriptions of which must be guided by the need to manage the Estate on the principle of a sustained annual yield in perpetuity and in conformity with the policy outlined above.

Organisation of the forestry industry.—The Forest Department is directly responsible for the management of the Crown Forest Estate. All silvicultural and exploitation operations within it are conducted by the Department which is responsible for the exploitation, conversion and sale of all produce deriving from the Crown Forest Estate. Privately owned forested lands other than those protected by law are managed by individual owners. All forest produce deriving from exploitation operations is consumed locally. In privately owned forested lands protected by law, i.e., Mountain and River Reserves, no fellings or forestry operations of any kind may be carried out without the permission of Government, such permission being granted only in exceptional circumstances and as a rule being confined to the removal of dead or fallen timber.

Initial processing, number of sawmills.—Felling and Logging is carried out by means of the saw alone or by saw and axe combined. The preference of the local woodcutters for working with the axe rather than the saw is still marked and can be attributed to their preferring to work individually rather than in groups. The logs are removed to the roadside by hand and thereafter transported by lorry to sawmills of which there are 48 in the island.

Marketing of products.—Timber from the Crown Forest Estate is sold either in the round or in converted form at the three Government Timber Stores at Port Louis and Rose Hill and Curepipe, these timber stores being managed by the Forest Department. Fuel from the Crown Forest Estate is converted by the Department and sold in the forests to individual purchasers. A considerable quantity of fuel is converted into charcoal in the forests, the charcoal being removed to Government Timber Stores and there retailed to the public. Produce deriving from privately owned forested areas is generally sold standing to dealers in timber, firewood and charcoal, but some owners conduct their own exploitation operations. The retail prices of forest produce from the Crown Forest Estate are appreciably lower than those charged by dealers and sawmillers.

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Timber exploited, statistics of production

From the Crown Forest Estate

(i) *Timber.*—The following table gives particulars of the timber exploited on Crown Forest Lands during the year under review:—

I. Hardwoods :—		
(*a*) Eucalyptus	188,966 cft. (Log Volume)	
(*b*) Camphor	3,654	,,
(*c*) Tecoma	2,045	,,
(*d*) Filao	1,039	,,
(*e*) Indigenous Species	12,236	,,
(*f*) Others	40,104	,,
TOTAL	248,044	
II. Softwoods :—		
(*g*) Pinus taeda, P. carribae, P. sinensis	50,655	,,
(*h*) Juniperus Bedfordiana	4,601	,,
(*i*) Cryptomeria japonica	20,188	,,
TOTAL	75,444	
GRAND TOTAL	323,488	

(ii) *Firewood and charcoal.*—During the year 1953, 29,170 Cords of firewood (1 Cord = 80 cubic feet stacked) equivalent to 2,333,540 cubic feet solid volume, were produced from the Crown Forest Estate. In addition, 1,633 Cords of firewood (81,650 cubic feet solid volume) were converted into 326,520 Kgms of charcoal for sale at Government Timber Stores. A total of 2,415,190 cubic feet solid volume of fuel was therefore produced from Crown Lands.

From privately owned forested areas or leased Crown Lands

(i) *Timber.*—An estimated volume of 680,480 cubic feet (log volume) of timber mainly Eucalyptus and *Casuarina equiselifolia* was produced.

(ii) *Firewood and charcoal.* An estimated 8,506 Cords of firewood (680,480 cubic feet solid) and the equivalent of 4,000 Cords: 800,000 Kgms of charcoal was produced.

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Brief description of the Forest Department

Permanent Establishment.—The sanctioned establishment of the Mauritius Forest Department is:—

(*a*) Conservator of Forests	1	} Unified Colonial Forestry Service	
(*b*) Assistant Conservator of Forests	1		
	2		
Locally recruited staff :—			
(*c*) Divisional Forest Assistants	2		
(*d*) Forest Range Officers	8		
(*e*) Deputy Forest Rangers	8		
(*f*) Foresters	31		
(*g*) Forest Guards	77		
	126		
		Total =	128
Survey Branch :—			
(*h*) Forest Surveyor	1		
(*i*) Draughtsmen	3		
	4		
		,, =	4
Clerical Staff :—			
(*j*) General Clerical Service	7		
(*k*) Departmental Stock Verifier	1		
(*l*) Statistical Clerks	4		
(*m*) Typists	2		
Total =	14		
(*n*) *Office Messenger Establishment*	3		
		,, =	17
		GRAND TOTAL =	149

Temporary Establishment.—For the day-to-day conduct of forestry operations in the Colony the Forest Department employed in 1953 directly and under its own supervision a labour force of approximately 1,000 labourers. These labourers were employed at Forest Department Nurseries and the Government Timber Stores, in the construction of roads, and in the conduct of silvicultural, utilization, and surveying operations.

The smallest territorial administrative unit in the Crown Forest Estate is the Forest Section, which is under the control of a Forester who is assisted by one or more Forest Guards. A number of Forest Section constitute a Forest Range, administered by a Forest Range Officer with the assisance of one or more Deputy Forest Rangers. Two or more Forest Rangers constitute a Division

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which is administered by a Divisional Forest Assistant, under the general control of the Conservator of Forests. The Assistant Conservator of Forests is employed largely in the performance of technical forestry operations but also assists the Conservator in his administrative duties.

Labour Supply.—In the purely silvicultural operations of the Department the labour force employed on daily wages is almost wholly Indo-Mauritian, but amongst the ranks of sawyers and woodcutters engaged on piece work rates a high proportion of ' Creoles ' continues to be employed. During the " crop season " for sugarcane, i.e., from June–July to December, a marked exodus of labour from forestry operations to cane harvesting operations took place owing to the relatively higher piece work wages obtaining in the sugar industry ; this exodus is annual and undoubtedly tends to dislocate the planned programme of forest works scheduled for completion each year.

Cyclones.—No major cyclones traversed the Colony during the year nor was any marked damage caused to forest crops by winds of high velocity.

Imports of Timber.—Figures for the whole of the year 1953 are not yet available. During the first nine months of the year the volume and value of imports of sawn timber was 750,846 cubic feet and Rs 2,707,404 respectively. The selling price of imported timber on the local market was considerably lower than the corresponding prices in 1952.

Management.—It has not yet been found possible for the Conservator of Forests to devote time to preliminary work in connection with the preparation of a Forest Working Plan for the Colony. It has become clear that unless the Conservator can be afforded adequate relief from the pressing needs of day-to-day administrative tasks the preparation of the Working Plan must be delayed.

Food Production.—In co-operation with the Food Production Board, of which the Conservator of Forests is a member, agricultural crops were cultivated under the ' taungya ' system in all forest plantations created in Crown Forest Lands Powder Mills, *L'Asile, Bras d'Eau* and in *Pas Géométriques* ' Haute Rive.' Damage by deer and monkeys to agricultural and forest crops precludes the successful application of the ' taungya ' system in plantations established at the higher elevations in the central plateau land.

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Protection.—(i) The National Reserves of some 4,520 acres of different types of indigenous forests continue to receive attention and sample plots maintained within them to investigate the possibility of controlling the growth of exotics continue to show promising results.

(ii) No serious damage was reported on Eucalyptus crops by the *Curculionid* beetle *Gonipterus scutellatus.*

(iii) *Shade over River Reserves.*—The protection and replanting where necessary with trees of privately owned riverine lands protected by law continued to receive the attention of the Department, and a total area of 32·78 acres of tree plantations were departmentally created in River Reserves during the year.

(iv) *Mountain Reserves.*—No permission was granted during the year to exploit timber in Mountain Reserves.

Lands for Tea Cultivation.—The cultivation of Tea was extended in Crown (Forest) Lands " Wooton " and " Midlands," the Forest Department assisting the Tea Officer in the clearance of the lands concerned.

Silviculture.—A total of 603·30 acres of new plantations were created during the year, the principal species planted being:—

(i) *Araucaria Cunninghamii* and *Cookii ;*
(ii) *Eucalyptus robusta* and *maculata* (var *citriodora*) ;
(iii) *Pinus caribaea* and *taeda* ;
(iv) *Camphora officianarum ;*
(v) *Swietenia Mahogani.* In addition some 2,347·79 acres of plantations of from 5–20 years of age were culturally treated under cleaning, pruning and thinning operations.

Output of Forest Produce

(i) *Major Forest Produce.*—The statement below gives the estimated volume in the round (log volume) of the timber produced in 1953:—

	Cubic feet
(*a*) Production from Crown Forests	322,487
(*b*) Production from unleased Pas Geometriques ...	1,000
(*c*) Production from privately owned Forests and leased Pas Geometriques	297,040
TOTAL LOCAL PRODUCTION ...	620,527
(*d*) Imports from 1st January to 30th September 1953 (Sawn timber = 375,423 cubic feet)	750,846
GRAND TOTAL	1,371,373

(Figures for Timber Imports for the period 1st October, 1953 to 31st December, 1953 are not available)

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(ii *Minor Forest Produce* :—

	Solid Volume Cft
(*a*) Firewood from Crown Forest Lands 29,169.25 (staked) cords of 80 cubic feet	2,333,540
(*b*) Firewood from privately owned Forest Lands or leased Crown Lands (estimated) 7,293 Cords stacked cords of 80 cubic feet	680 480
TOTAL ...	3,014,020
(*c*) Charcoal from Crown Forest Lands	326,520 Kgms
(*d*) Charcoal from privately owned forested lands or leased Crown Lands	800,000 Kgms
	1,126,520 Kgms

Statement of Expenditure and Revenue for Calendar Year 1953

Expenditure

I. General Estimates

	Rs.
1. Personal Emoluments	352,360
2. Forest Produce	1,094,574
3. Fire Protection	5,208
4. Uniforms	22,942
5. Equipment	2,812
6. Forest Stations	6,716
7. Roads	102,529
8. Surveys	31,143
9. Felling of Dangerous Trees	7,934
10. Compensation to F.D. Labourers and woodcutters injured in the course of duty	14,853
11. Travelling	34,435
12. Transport	910
13. Incidentals	1,025
14. Silviculture	346,776
15. Quarters and Repairs	23,847
16. River Reserves—Silvicultural Operations	41,972
17. National Reserves—Upkeep of	1,590
18. Game Protection	1,441
19. Control of Cuscuta Creeper	7,753
TOTAL—GENERAL ESTIMATES	2,100,820

II. Development and Welfare

Silviculture—New Plantations—Total	53,745
GRAND TOTAL—General Estimates and Development and Welfare	2,154,565

III. Revenue

Sale of Forest Produce (Public)	1,309,360
,, ,, (Government)	95,850
TOTAL	1,405.210
Shooting Rights	46,071
GRAND TOTAL	1,451,281

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Co-operative Societies

Government Assistance

The administrative organisation primarily responsible for the assistance of co-operative societies is the Government Department of Co-operation. In 1953 the staff of this Department consisted of 18 officials and the total cost to Government for the co-operative year ending 30th April, 1953 was Rs 126,935.

The Mauritius Co-operative Union Ltd., registered in 1952, has now a membership of 143 societies and a staff of three supervisors. The Union had a budget of Rs 18,300 for 1953 and has started to assist the Department of Co-operation with supervision and audit work.

At the end of 1953 the amount of Government monies on loan to Co-operative Societies was Rs 24,915, held by 5 societies in Mauritius and 11 societies in Rodrigues.

Activities of Co-operative Societies

Agricultural Credit

The number of credit societies of unlimited liability increased from 142 to 146, and membership from 7,845 to 8,299. There was a notable increase in the owned funds of these societies which now stand at Rs 419,862 of Share Capital and Rs 590,980 of Reserve Funds. Of the latter sum Rs 165,039 is invested as Share Capital in the Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Ltd, Loan business increased from 3½ millions of rupees to 4½ millions. Deposits rose from 74 thousand to 117 thousand rupees and sugar payments to members for canes marketed through these societies rose from 11 millions to 12½ millions of rupees.

Fishermen

The two credit societies of limited liability, whose 34 members are fishermen, continued their operations during the year without change.

Agricultural Federation

The Mauritius Co-operative Credit Societies Federation Ltd, which increased its membership from 116 to 118 societies, has changed its name to The Mauritius Agricultural Federation Ltd and opened its doors to other agricultural co-operatives such as marketing societies. The Federation provides legal advice for its members and assists them in all agricultural matters, particularly in the collective sale of their sugarcane crops. The staff consists of one secretary and one assistant secretary. The services of a Barrister and a firm of Chartered Accountants are retained.

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Thrift and Savings

The 38 societies of this type, with a membership of 1,704 persons, had total savings of Rs 197,258 at the end of 1953 as compared with Rs 156,550 in 1952.

School Savings

A pilot scheme was started in 1952 to establish School Savings Banks in 13 schools on co-operative lines. By the end of 1953 the 13 Banks had been registered and savings amounted to Rs 16,670. The books have so far been provided free of charge from the Education Fund of the Co-operative Central Bank and the scheme seems to be very popular with parents, children and school staffs. Success still depends on the continued voluntary help of the school staffs and further development must await the provision of adequate audit arrangements for a larger number of Banks.

Marketing

The marketing of sugarcane and leaf tobacco is arranged through the agricultural credit societies.

The Crève Coeur Co-operative Marketing Society Ltd has 355 members. Ginger grown in the District of Pamplemousses is marketed through this society. In 1953 the ginger produced again exceeded the local and overseas demand and the crop is being disposed of rather slowly.

The Belle Vue Maurel Co-operative Milk Society Ltd, registered in 1952, has 495 members and is marketing 500 to 1,000 litres of fresh milk daily. The low standard of management and slow payment by the contractor have kept the society from making good progress and caused it to show a loss as at 30th April, 1953. Nevertheless there have been improvements during 1953 and if the society continues for another year or two years it will become firmly established.

Central Finance

The Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Ltd, founded in 1948, increased its membership from 126 to 130 societies and its owned funds from Rs 204,192 to Rs 310,497. The paid up share capital is Rs 166,503 and the Reserves Fund Rs 143,994. The overdraft with Barclays Bank (D.C. & O.) Ltd on 31st December, 1953, was Rs 270,025. Deposits from members and non-members amounted to Rs 1,076,760. The Bank employs a secretary-manager and a clerk. Interest on loans from the Bank to its member societies continued to be charged at the rate of 5½ per cent per annum.

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Retail Consumer Trade

At the end of 1953 sixty two co-operative retail stores were operating with a membership of 9,166 persons and a turnover for the year ending 30th April, 1953, of Rs 4,204,752. These figures compare with 8,437 members and Rs 3,745,966 turnover for the co-operative year ending 30th April, 1952. No great development may be anticipated in this field until further improvement has been achieved in the standard of management in some of these societies.

Wholesale Consumer Trade

The Mauritius Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd, with a membership of 62 societies had a turnover for the years ending 30th April 1952 and 30th April 1953, of Rs 2,499,864 and Rs 2,920,911 respectively. This increased turnover has been achieved with a further reduced stock holding, the stock valuations for 1952 and 1953 being Rs 120,619 and Rs 103,914 respectively. The society's owned funds increased during the year from Rs. 40,173 to Rs 47,261 the latter figure being made up of Rs 34,494 share capital and Rs 12,767 General Reserve. In addition there is a Share Transfer Reserve of Rs 2,000 and a Stock Depreciation Reserve of Rs 2,500. The overdraft with Messrs Barclays Bank (D.C.&O.) Ltd has been reduced as follows: 30th April, 1951, Rs 124,295 ; 31st December, 1951, Rs 98,527 ; 30th April, 1952, Rs 73,603 ; 31st December, 1952, Rs 40,883 ; 30th April, 1953, Rs 23,396 and on 31st December, 1953, there was temporarily a credit balance of Rs 16,290. The reduction of stock holdings and a system of deposits on purchases have been largely responsible for these spectacular reductions in the amount of borrowed capital. The society now owns more than one third of its working capital as compared with owning less than one thirtieth at the end of 1950. Since 1st May, 1953, the society banks with the Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Ltd.

Housing

There are now two co-operative housing societies, one in Savanne—Grand Port and one in Plaines Wilhems. Neither society has started building operations as yet but both are active in making preparations. There are 152 members in these societies. Goverment has made Rs 125,000 available for loans to the Savanne—Grand Port society and the Plaines Wilhems society has applied for similar assistance.

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Printing

A Co-operative Printing Society registered in 1952 has now 815 members and, with a small printing press in Port Louis, is giving a good service to its members, several of whom are other co-operative societies. Rs 21,388 of printing business had been carried out up to 30th April, 1953.

Transport

The membership in the two Co-operative Transport Societies is 67. Paid up shares at 30th April, 1953, amounted to Rs 28,171. Rs 18,342 were paid for the services provided and over 4,500 tons of sugar canes were transported to the factories.

General

The financial statement of the co-operative movement shows clearly the development which has taken place. The figures for comparison between 1952 and 1953 are respectively:—

	Rs.		*Rs.*
Share Capital	728,513	and	863,566
Reserve Funds	552,182	,,	809,202
Other Funds	25,818	,,	53,345
Total Assets	6,158,113	,,	7,660,074
Total Turnover	23,530,140	,,	27,917,094
Total Societies	265	,,	275
Total Members	18,526	,,	23,431

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Apart from the sugar, tea, tobacco and fibre industries, dealt with in the preceding paragraphs, other local industries of lesser importance comprise the manufacture of rum and wine, oil and soap, cigarettes, matches, aerated beverages, dairy produce, salt, lime and bricks.

Various small trades including printing, tanneries, mechanical and electrical workshops, flourish in the Colony.

No event of importance affected the local industries during the year.

The Development Authority which is the body responsible for the implementation of the Colonial Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan considers on their merits applications for financial assistance from individuals or companies wishing to launch new industries and in a few cases financial assistance in the form of loans has been granted.

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Expert advice on the production of pulp and paper from " bagasse " was obtained but no further step has yet been taken. The possibility of producing cement locally was also investigated.

The Customs Tariff Ordinance provides for exemptions from import duty in respect of machinery and apparatus intended solely for use in factories for the manufacture or preparation of most of the commodities which are produced in the Colony.

Chapter 7—Social Services

Education

Organization

Considerable reorganization of tthe Education Department's administrative machinery took place in 1951. The departmental structure now consists of the Director, a Deputy Director, an Assistant Director for Primary Schools, an Assistant Director for Secondary Schools, the Principals of the three Government Secondary Schools and of the Teachers' Training College, a Youth Organizer, an Adult Education Officer, a Visual Education Officer and the Primary Schools Inspectorate, now 9 in number. The teaching cadre consists of 45 Education Officers and Women Education Officers, 29 specialist teachers and unqualified teaching assistants on the secondary level, and 143 Headteachers with 1,662 assistant teachers on the primary level. School staff of all categories, including laboratory attendants, primary school servants and gardeners, total 217. The departmental clerical and messenger staff, which is divided between Headquarters and the five divisions, numbers 45. The Department also has the full-time services of a School Medical Officer and of three School Dentists who are all members of the Health Department.

The Director is assisted by a number of Standing Advisory Committees, of which the most important are the Education Committee, appointed by the Governor under Ordinance 12 of 1944, and the Departmental Planning Committee, composed of the Heads of Divisions and senior administrative officers of the Education Department. Other standing committees of a specialist nature are the Student Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee, Syllabus and Text Books Committees, Scholarship Committee and the Area Committee for Cambridge Syndicate Examinations.

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Educational Services

In the field of primary education, there are slightly more aided schools than there are government maintained schools. The former are managed by four Education Authorities—the Roman Catholic, Church of England, Hindu and Moslem— with the help of maintenance grants paid by the Department. Teachers in all these schools are paid by the Department, and are appointed, transferred and promoted and may be dismissed by the Director on the recommendation of the responsible Authority. In 1952 for the first time each Authority set up an Appointments and Promotions Board, consisting of three representatives of the Authority and two of the Education Department, to handle these questions of such vital importance to the smooth functioning of the schools.

A Primary Schools Promotion Board was set up at the same time for teachers in Government Service. The Board consists of the Deputy Director, Assistant Director for Primary Schools and the Principal of the Training College, assisted by the Inspectorate when necessary.

Plans for post-primary education were worked out by the Department in 1952, and continuation classes were started by the Adult Education Officer in Port Louis and Rose Hill.

Secondary education is almost exclusively of the grammar school type, leading to university courses. Government can meet only part of the demand in its own schools, but since 1951 it is heavily subsidizing a number of private schools, which can offer satisfactory guarantees of schooling up to School Certificate or Higher School Certificate level.

Apart from the College of Agriculture, no full-time post-secondary education is provided in the Colony and students desirous of following university and other post-secondary courses must go overseas to do so. There were 263 registered students in this category in 1953. A few others are studying in France and India, but the actual number is not on record. Laboratory facilities are provided at the Royal College, Royal College School and College of Agriculture for students preparing their 1st M.B., Inter B.Sc. and Pharmaceutical examinations.

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Entry into the Government and Aided Primary Schools teaching service is by way of the Government Teachers' Training College at Beau Bassin. After ten years of frustration and of making-do in temporary quarters the College is at last in sight of its goal of having quarters both aesthetically and functionally satisfactory.

The average ages of entry and leaving the various grades of schools are as follows:—

primary 5–12
secondary 12–19
teacher training and College of Agriculture 18–20.

Expenditure

Although the approved expenditure for 1952–53 was Rs 9,833,394, the actual expenditure amounted to Rs 12,124,582, this considerable increase being almost entirely due to the payment of large arrears of salary under the award of the Ramage salary revision scheme. Approved expenditure from Colonial revenue, i.e., excluding capital development charges, amounted in 1953–54 to Rs 13,212,283. No less than Rs 10,219,203 of this amount has been earmarked for the payment of salaries, salary grants and wages, a heavy charge indeed on the Colony's resources. Other heavy items of expenditure in the present year's budget are Rs 932,000 for free milk to primary schoolchildren, Rs 280,000 for English scholarships, the holders of which are mainly in United Kingdom Universities, Rs 161,500 for scholarships held locally in secondary schools, Rs 140,000 for the overseas training of Education Department personnel, Rs 187,000 for books and other school requisites, and Rs 170,000 for school equipment and furniture.

Education in Government and Aided primary schools is free ; in addition the children receive a daily issue of milk and their basic text books without charge. The fees charged in the Government and Aided secondary schools are very modest indeed for the services rendered, and a total of no less than 118 Government scholarships are available, either on a competitive basis or by award to needy pupils of deserving character. These scholarships provide free secondary education, free travelling, text books free on loan or purchasable at half price, and a money grant of Rs 20 a month (Rs 60 per month in the case of scholars from Rodrigues).

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School Statistics

Statistical returns are made annually by the Education Department effective for the 31st October.

The returns for October 1953 show further all-round gains. The number of scholastic institutions increased from 279 to 297, of which 240 were primary schools (72 Government, 76 Aided and 92 Unaided) ; a senior school for post-primary pupils ; 55 secondary (3 Government, 1 Teachers' Training College, 9 Aided and 42 Unaided) and 1 post-secondary (the College of Agriculture). There was a slight increase in registered teaching strength, from 2,511 to 2,599 but quite a significant increase in enrolled pupils, from 78,597 to 87,473. As may be expected ,the greatest part of this increase was in the primary schools in which an extra 7,666 children were enrolled. The mounting pressure on our Government and Aided primary schools can be gauged from the enrolment figures for the last four years: 55,283 ; 58,810 ; 64,316 and 72,158. Enrolments in these schools have doubled in the last decade, and it is estimated that over three-quarters of the total number of children of primary school age are now in school. Despite a greatly accelerated school building and teacher-training programme the inward flow of children exceeds the absorptive capacity of the state schools. An experiment was made during 1953 in a bi-annual intake into the primary schools, in January and in July, instead of the system hitherto in force of admitting children to school on their reaching their fifth birthday. The bi-annual intake proved unworkable, and by the end of the year the Governor-in-Executive Council had decided on a January intake only of children of five years of age and over " provided, however, that a pupil who shall attain the age of five years on or before the 30th June in the year in which he seeks admission to a Government or Aided Primary school may, subject to room being available, be admitted to such school in that year."

Some idea of the extent to which the people of Mauritius are desirous of having their children educated may be gained from the percentage figures of average attendance at the Government and Aided primary schools, bearing in mind that education in the Colony is on a voluntary basis. For the last three years these rates have been 80·58 per cent, 80·85 per cent and 81·4 per cent respectively. Unfortunately, the aim of education is far from clear to most parents who see in it the means of getting at least a white-collar job and at best a profession for their children by way of local

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and overseas scholarships. The Education Department is attempting to redress this bias by emphasising the importance of a balanced education in which attention is paid to handwork as well as to the academic subjects. It continued to train in 1953 selected primary school teachers as handicraft specialists, and to build and equip new handicraft centres. Evidence of the good effect which this is having was seen in the Art and Handicraft Exhibition, held at the Royal College in December.

Students Overseas

The number of students following courses overseas rose to 263, of which 257 were in the United Kingdom and Eire, and 6 on the Continent. Although Medicine and the Law still head the list with 91 and 44 student respectively, the emphasis is changing as may be seen from the following figures:—

Dentistry	26
Arts and Education ...	18
Science	15
Engineering	13
Nursing	10
Accountancy	9
Pharmacy	6
Architecture	4

and a miscellaneous bag of 27 students following courses in art, building, commerce, banking, secretaryship, surveying, motor engineering, decoration, theology, optics, radiography, music, domestic science, and veterinary science. Seven laureates (i.e. English Scholarship winners) obtained admission to institutions of higher education overseas to study medicine (4), classics (1), economics (1), and law (1).

Educational Extension Work

The Visual Aids branch of the Department was very active in 1953, particularly in connection with the Coronation festivities and with a documentary film in colour of the dependencies of Mauritius taken by the Visual Education Officer when he accompanied the Governor on a tour of the Islands. Further progress was made in equipping the schools with receiving apparatus to enable them to take the Schools Broadcasts Service, transmitted from the Mauritius Broadcasting Service.

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Although it was not possible to increase the strength of the School Medical Service, a total of 10,271 pupils was examined and 116 schools visited in all districts. It is worthy of note that 92 per cent of the parents attended the medical inspections of their children. The School Medical Officer found that 13 per cent of the school entrants were of poor general condition and 96·6 per cent needed dental treatment. This aspect of health work among school-children is being carefully watched by both the Education and the Health Departments with the object of attending to and saving as many as possible of the permanent teeth of the children. Treatment was carried out both in the Civil and Victoria Hospitals and by means of the Mobile Dental Clinic in the rural areas. Propaganda from Education Head Quarters was maintained and a survey towards the end of the year revealed that 78 per cent of the children had toothbrushes and used them. The B.C.G. campaign conducted by the Tuberculosis Officer was continued in the schools with the testing of 9.673 pupils, the vacination of 6,690 and the retesting of 6,685.

Adult education courses at post-secondary level were run in book-keeping, shorthand, woodwork, art and music. The B.B.C. " Listen and Speak " course in English for adult beginners was broadcast twice weekly. Practical courses in physics, chemistry and biology were held outside class hours at the Royal College and Royal College School for students reading for Higher School Certificate or degree standard and for pharmaceutical examinations. Continuation classes for ex-primary school pupils in the 13–16 age-group were carried on at 8 centres. A pilot project in holding a literacy class was tried out at Surinam. In July the Governor set up an Adult Education Committee to correlate these activities and to advise generally on the development of adult education services in the Colony.

The Youth Organization section of the Department now supervises the activities of 138 boys' clubs, 53 girls' clubs and 3 mixed clubs with a total membership of 7,900. Independent, but affiliated, are the well-established Scout and guide movements with a total membership of 1,445. During the course of the year our youth work was inspected by delegates from Madagascar, and plans are well-matured for an exchange of delegates in 1954. It is hoped to send a team of 6 from each island. In October the Youth Organiser visited Madagascar and was entertained by the *Conseil de la Jeunesse*.

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Public Health

The following is a summary of the main events for the year 1953:—

(a) The continuation of the B.C.G. vaccination campaign.

(b) The setting up of an Insect Borne Diseases Division to continue malaria control and to deal with insect pests of public health importance.

The striking improvement in health conditions during the past few years, as demonstrated by the following statistical figures, is one of the most notable features in the recent history of Mauritius. For 1953, an epidemic of whooping cough was responsible for an overall increase in death rate and infantile mortality:—

Year	*Birth rate per 0/00*	*Death rate per 0/00*	*Infant mortality rate per 0/00*	*Maternal mortality rate per 0/00 births*
1933 ...	34·7	27·3	131·5	9·9
1938 ...	33·4	29·9	162·5	11·38
1943 ...	33·1	25·9	141·5	5·14
1944 ...	43·52	27·1	141·0	8·73
1945 ...	38·3	36·1	188·0	14·96
1946 ...	38·7	29·5	145·2	10·39
1947 ...	43·8	20·1	113·9	5·25
1948 ...	43·1	23·8	186·2	4·13
1949 ...	46·0	16·6	91·0	3·79
1950 ...	49·7	13·9	76·3	3·51
1951 ...	47·5	14·9	83·5	3·24
1952 ...	48·0	14·8	80·8	3·2
1953 ...	46·3	16·1	93·5	2·7

The factors responsible for bringing about such appreciable improvements have been, first of all, the progressive elimination of the disease malaria as a result of the campaign which began soon after the end of the second world war, the higher standard of environmental hygiene, the absence of cyclones during the past eight years and the marked prosperity of the island's main industry which has facilitated an increase of expenditure on health services.

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Malaria, which is now included in the list of notifiable diseases, occupied up to 1945 the first place among causes of mortality. It now ranks with the very minor causes and the figures shown below indicate how dramatic the fall has been:—

Year	*Deaths ascribed to malaria*	*Rate per 0/00 population*	*Percentage of deaths due to malaria to total deaths*
1945 ...	3,534	8·34	23·13
1946 ...	2,918	6·88	23·29
1947 ...	1,782	4·12	20·53
1948 ...	1,580	3·58	15·02
1949 ...	936	2·11	12·68
1950 ...	388	0·83	6·01
1951 ...	285	0·59	3·95
1952 ...	188	0·37	2·52
1953 ...	61	0·12	0·73

A reduction which appears just as spectacular is evident from the returns submitted by the hospitals of the Colony:—

Year	*Cases of malaria treated in hospitals*	*Deaths in hospitals*
1942 ...	5,014	110
1945 ...	3,244	148
1946 ...	2,522	106
1947 ...	1,989	76
1948 ...	1,576	66
1949 ...	804	43
1950 ...	209	10
1951 ...	98	4
1952 ...	3	Nil
1953 ...	Nil	Nil

Together with malaria, there has been a steady decline in the number of deaths caused by the group of infective and parasitic diseases. After numbering 4,052 in 1948, 1,603 in 1949, the death figures fell to 975 in 1950, 863 in 1951, 713 in 1952, and 980 for 1953, the increase in the last year being ascribable to the whooping cough epidemic which prevailed throughout the year.

Another noteworthy feature is the reduction in the incidence of enteric fever: the incidence rate which was 1·478 per 1,000 of the population in 1946 and 0·936 in 1947 came down to 0·67 in 1951, 0·50 in 1952 and 0·21 in 1953. Vaccination against enteric fever is carried out on a fairly large scale and on the other hand the liberal use of chloramphenical in the treatment of the disease has reduced the case mortality.

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Mortality from the principal groups of diseases is hereunder summarised:—

Group	*Number of deaths*	*Rate per 0/00 of population*
(*a*) Infective and parasitic diseases	980	1·9
(*b*) Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs ...	504	1·0
(*c*) Disease of the nervous system and sense organs ...	515	1·0
(*d*) Diseases of the circulatory system	559	1·1
(*e*) Diseases of the respiratory system	1,323	2·6
(*f*) Diseases of the digestive system	1,269	2·5
(*g*) Diseases peculiar to the first year of life	803	1·6

The functions of the Medical and Health Department are:—

(a) to investigate the influence of social, environmental and domestic factors on the incidence of human disease and disability ;

(b) to plan and carry out measures for the promotion of health ;

(c) to institute and maintain measures for the prevention of disease ;

(d) to provide a quarantine service to prevent the introduction of infectious disease by sea or air ;

(e) to provide facilities for treatment of disease, including mental disease, by maintenance of hospital and dispensary services ;

(f) to make provision for the rehabilitation of the disabled ;

(g) to control the practice of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy ;

(h) to provide facilities for the training of nurses, midwives and sanitary officers ;

(i) to advise local authorities regarding their health services and to inspect those services ;

(j) to prepare and publish reports and statistical or other information relating to health.

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The health facilities which were available in 1953 are tabulated hereunder: —

	A. Medical and Health Staff	*Government*	*Private*
1.	Registered doctors	38	53
2.	Nurses of senior training	9	—
	Nurses in hospitals	104	–
	Dressers in hospitals	157	—
3.	Superintendent of midwives	1	—
	Midwives	48	—
4.	Sanitary Inspectors	55	—
5.	X—Ray Specialist	2	—
	X—Ray technician	1	—
6.	Pharmacists	1	39
7.	Dentists	3	21

	B. I. Government Institutions	*No. of Institutions*	*No. of beds*
1.	General Hospitals	8	1,174
2.	Dispensaries (including 2 in the Prisons)...	45	—
3.	Specialized Units :—		
	(*a*) Maternity and Child Welfare Centres	7	—
	(*b*) Maternity wards in Hospitals ...	8	—
	(*c*) Leprosarium	1	62
	(*d*) Mental Hospital	1	693
	(*e*) Orthopædic Hospital	1	142
	(*f*) Prisons Hospitals	2	73
4.	Mobile Units :—		
	(i) Dispensaries	4 units	
	(ii) Ante-natal clinic	1 unit	
	(iii) Dental Clinic	1 unit	
	II. Private Institutions		
1.	Sugar estates hospitals	33	738
2.	Sugar estates dispensaries	8	
3.	Nursing homes	5	53

The additions to the Hospital for Mental Diseases continued and were completed in 1953. Work on the new dispensary at Triolet is nearing completion and the following buildings have been planned or are under consideration: one Chest Clinic, one Health Centre for the capital town of Port Louis, dispensaries for Rose Hill and Tamarin, and a Central Departmental Laundry. The foundation stone of the Orthopaedic Centre was laid during the year.

Apart from 45 static dispensaries, a mobile dispensary service comprising four units caters for the needs of 64 villages and hamlets. The actual Government expenditure on Medical and Health Services in respect of the financial year 1952–53 was Rs 8,407,698.63 or 9·4542 per cent of the total expenditure for the year. This represents a sum of Rs 16.49 per head of the estimated population at 31st December, 1952, (mid-financial year). In addition, expenditure under the Development and Welfare Plan, mainly on the eradication of malaria, amounted to Rs 981,237.35.

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The School Medical Service consists of one Medical Officer and two Nurses. There were no candidates for the other available posts of School Medical Officers.

The B.C.G. vaccination campaign continued to be carried out successfully. 9,673 children were tested and 6,690 were vaccinated.

No case of Malaria was admitted to a public hospital during the year.

Building and Planning

Architecture.—The standard of architecture in the island is improving as local firms of architects obtain commissions for important semi-official, commercial and domestic buildings (official buildings are designed by the Government Architectural Branch, employed under the Development Plan). The activities of the Mauritius Society of Architects and Surveyors, which has been in existence for over a year, have also contributed to the improvement.

Town Planning.—During the year new Town Planning Legislation was drafted for introduction into the Legislative Council early in 1954.

Professor Thornton White visited Mauritius at the end of the year to discuss his report on the Master Plan for Port Louis. The report, published in October, was well received and is now under consideration by Government.

Building Materials and Equipment.—The greater availability of materials was reflected in an influx of representatives of British and South African building product firms looking for new markets for their goods and in the improvement in suitability for the local climate of such materials as paint.

Building Construction.—Prefabricated roof structures have grown in popularity and are being adopted for use in schools, houses, warehouses and hospitals. Another major contribution to improved building methods has been the introduction of the " hollow tile " form of concrete suspended slab, the hollow part of which is formed of a special type of machine-made concrete block.

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Building Works.—The construction of five and six-storied flats in the township of Curepipe has aroused much public interest. The success of two-storied flats above shops has inspired these new ventures which are sponsored by private enterprise. Nevertheless the demand for individual private houses has not abated.

The construction of housing for artisans and labourers on sugar estates continued, either by direct building by the estates or by " self help " methods in which materials were supplied to the worker with which to erect his own house. The Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund started a scheme of fifty houses for sugar workers at Goodlands in the North of the Island, employing for the purpose a local firm of architects. An experimental scheme of cheap houses at Nouvelle France, executed by Government from funds supplied by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund, had been almost completed by the end of the year but there was some doubt about the suitability of the type of house for hire purchase. Maintenance seemed likely to be high and the life was uncertain. The urban local government authorities continued to build on a modest scale: Curepipe now has 74 houses, Beau Bassin—Rose Hill 15, Quatre Bornes 72 and Port Louis 24. The one Co-operative Building Society on the register, to which a loan has been made from Development Funds, was unable, through lack of experience, to undertake any building.

Commercial building continued, with a marked tendency towards the replacement of decayed premises by new buildings.

The most important Government buildings completed during the year were: a classroom block for the new Queen Elizabeth College for Girls ; extensions to the Teachers' Training College ; a fire station at Piton ; a number of schools, dispensaries and houses. Work was also started on the Orthopaedic Hospital, a Nurses' Home and the Police Training School, all major works.

Public Assistance

Public Assistance and Social Welfare activities which for the past three years, had been combined in the Public Assistance and Social Welfare Department, were separated with effect from 1st July, 1953, and the former Public Assistance Section now forms a department of its own, responsible for the administration of outdoor and indoor relief and the allied work of Old Age Pensions.

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Outdoor Relief

In addition to the increased rates of relief approved in 1952, the Committee on Outdoor Relief approved in May 1953 a suggestion for an increase of Rs 1.50 per adult and Re 1.00 per child in the scales in force, and recommended that the proportion of discretionary allowance payable in respect of rent be raised to over 50 per cent, if necessary, in cases of longterm illness, provided that the maximum grant did not exceed 75 per cent.

As the result of the additional concessions, the average allowance paid in December 1953 was Rs 21.89 as compared with Rs 15.78 in January of the same year.

Relief in kind

Flannels and blankets were distributed in the winter months of 1953 on the same generous scale as in 1952, and these comforts were extended to recipients and pensioners in Rodrigues. The total cost of these comforts provided from Public Assistance funds in 1953 was Rs 60,770 as compared with Rs 50,614 in 1952.

Spectacles were also issued during the year, on the recommendation of the eye specialist, to persons in receipt of outdoor relief and/or Old Age Pensions.

Special Additions

Attention was paid during the year to discretionary alowances in cases of sickness or infirmity and in other special circumstances. In collaboration with the Medical Department, a revised form of medical certificate has been prepared and its introduction should provide fuller information on which to assess the special additions to be made in deserving cases.

Investigations and review

The standard of investigation has been maintained during the year 1953, in spite of the splitting-up of the combined Public Assistance and Social Welfare Department and a necessary readjustment of the duties of the staff allocated to the newly formed Public Assistance Department. 6,193 new applications for outdoor relief were received during the year, of which 4,375 were accepted. On the other hand as a result of review visits, 3,946 allowances were withdrawn. The total number of cases on roll at the end of the year stood at 7,757 as compared with 7,328 at the end of 1952.

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There are now 31 centres and 26 sub-centres at which applications are received, while actual payments of outdoor relief are effected at 137 paying points throughout the Island.

Workrooms

Work was provided in the Department's Workshops in 1953 for 63 persons, mostly widows with large families and others with heavy household responsibilities, who would otherwise have been eligible for outdoor relief on a smaller scale.

Their total earnings, on a piece-work basis, amounted to Rs 65,193 distributed as under:—

Laundry (in-workers)	15,273
Uniforms (in-workers)	35,676
Lingerie (out-workers)	14,244
	65,193

or an average monthly earning of Rs. 86.23

Indoor Relief

There was no change during the year in the number of Institutions providing facilities for indoor relief. The number of persons (including a few mental cases) in the Orphanages and Infirmaries at the end of December 1953 was as under:—

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Infirms	362	252	614
Orphans	105	94	199

as compared with 632 Infirms and 215 Orphans at the end of the year 1952.

As from 1st January, 1953, an increase of 10 per cent in the capitation grant previously paid was approved, and paid to the Institutions. The revised rate of Rs 1.10 per day now applies both to adults and children, irrespective of age and mental condition.

The usual supplementary grant of Rs 2 per inmate was again given this year from Public Assistance funds for Christmas and New Year celebrations.

The Orphanages and Infirmaries are visited by Voluntary Organisations which distribute sweets and cigarettes to the inmates.

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Old Age Pensions

During the year The Old Age Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance No. 21 of 1953 was passed, providing for an increase from Rs 15 to Rs 20 in the maximum rate, and for the lowering of the qualifying age for women to 60 years. Effect was given to the revised scheme as from 1st July 1953. As a result, numerous new applications were received and cases of outdoor relief had to be transferred to the Old Age Pensions Scheme. The total number of pensions current at the end of December 1953 was 16,747 at a cost of Rs 348,483 per month as compared with 12,427 in December 1952 at a monthly cost of Rs 175,801.

Following an inspection visit by the Public Assistance Commissioner in July 1953 the Old Age Pensions Scheme was extended to certain persons in the Lesser Dependencies, account being taken of their conditions of service there.

Repatriation

During the year, a sum of Rs 12,529.78 was spent for the repatriation of destitute Mauritians abroad and of destitute aliens in the Colony. Full enquiries into all such cases are conducted by the Public Assistance Department and, where possible, repatriation expenses are recovered.

The total amount of repatriation expenses recovered in 1953 was Rs 4,810.96.

Social Welfare

Social Welfare Department

A separate Social Welfare Department came into existence on 1st July 1953.

The new department took over most of the social welfare activities of the Public Assistance Department. Among these was the development of the existing Social Welfare Centres and Community Centres and the co-ordination of voluntary organisations. In addition the Probation Service which had hitherto been a branch of the Judicial Department was transferred to the Social Welfare Department.

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The Welfare Month

In October 1953 the new Social Welfare Department launched a social welfare movement known as the Welfare Month through the Social Welfare Centres. The first centre to be brought in was the one at Bambous. The principal aim of the movement was to make the local people conscious of the various services which ministered to their welfare and to point out how they could improve their conditions through self-help. The Welfare Month proved a great attraction and people attended in large numbers the various events organised for their benefit. There were talks by specialists on health, sanitation, agriculture, education, home management, the care of the child and the mother and other subjects of practical interest. An exhibition of health posters was organised. Demonstrations and entertainment were liberally provided. There were film shows, music, both recorded and live, and illuminations. A Clean House campaign was run concurrently and prizes awarded to the owners of the three cleanest houses of the locality. These prizes were made possible through the generosity of private donors in the locality. The Welfare Month was closed by a Baby Show organised by the Mauritius Healthy Babies Society which also awarded prizes to the winners in each of four age groups of babies. It is noteworthy that the Police reported that drunkenness had shown a decline during the Welfare Month.

New Social Welfare Centres

Three new Social Welfare Centres were opened during the year at Triolet, Goodlands and Grand Bois. The Centre at Grand Bois was enlarged by the addition of a dispensary. Five more Social Welfare Centres of the original scheme drawn up by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee remain to be built. When the original scheme has been completed there will be 14 Centres in all. No new Community Centres have been set up since the end of 1952, as a new scheme is before the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee.

Community Activities

The smaller centres provide many of the recreative and simple community activities offered in the larger centres. In general, these activities include indoor and outdoor games, library facilities,

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music and singing, literacy and other classes, practical talks, youth clubs, film shows, sports, cycle races, dances, and baby shows. The total daily attendance at all centres is in the neighbourhood of one thousand and in many cases includes women as well as men. Midwifery and milk distribution services are provided at Social Welfare Centres only.

Community Development

The Communitty Development Committee appointed in July 1952, continued its activities. It has as members representatives of the Education Department, the Health Department, the Public Works Department the Co-operative Department and District Administration. The Chairman is now the Social Welfare Commissioner. The social and economic survey carried out by the Committee revealed a number of problems which the Committee is tackling gradually.

Voluntary Organisations

Among the functions of the new Social Welfare Department are the fostering and encouragement of voluntary organisations. There are about 30 of these organisations and two new one came into existence during the year:—

(i) *The Mauritius Healthy Babies Society.*

This Society has as its principal object the dissemination of knowledge about baby care in the rural areas. For this purpose it holds Baby Shows and distributes prizes to the winners. Three shows have been held so far, all of them at different Social Welfare Centres. The Department assists with organisational facilities.

(ii) *A Women's Organisation.*

A women's organisation has been set up with a Lady Welfare Officer of the Department as its organising secretary. Its object is to impart practical instruction in hygiene, sanitation, home management and kindred subjects to women in rural areas. It holds on an average one meeting per week. Film shows are sometimes arranged.

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Chapter 8—Legislation

Sixty-seven Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council and assented to by the Governor during the year 1953. Those Ordinances deal principally with matters of domestic concern ; the most important of them are:—

1. The Board of Agriculture, Fisheries and Natural Resources Ordinance, 1953. (No. 3 of 1953).

This Ordinance sets up for Mauritius and the Dependencies a Board of Agriculture, Fisheries and Natural Resources to replace the Board, of Agriculture, the Forests Board and the Fisheries Board as well as other administrative Boards and committees dealing with cognate matters.

2. The Tobacco Production and Marketing (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 4 of 1953).

Ordinance No. 24 of 1952 made it possible for leaf tobacco purchased by a manufacturer and on which excise duty had not been paid to be stored in approved bonded warehouses. Its ulterior object was to obviate a brake on production which the inadequacy of accommodation for the storage of leaf tobacco in the Tobacco Warehouse tended to bring about. This Ordinance empowers the Tobacco Board to impose an additional cess on leaf tobacco delivered to the Board to provide *inter alia,* for the funds necessary for the repayment of loans contracted by the Board to cover the cost of erecting a much larger tobacco warehouse.

3. The Crown Proceedings Ordinance, 1953. (No. 5 of 1953).

This Ordinance which is adopted with the necessary modifications from the United Kingdom Crown Proceedings Act, 1947, amends the law relating to the civil liabilities and rights of the Crown, to civil proceedings by and against the Crown and to the civil liabilities of persons other than the Crown in certain cases involving the affairs and property of the Crown.

The Ordinance provides for no change in the substantive law affecting proceedings by or against the Crown in respect of breach of contract. Such proceedings will continue to be by ordinary action in accordance with ordinary rules of Court subject to rules made under the Ordinance.

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The Crown formerly suffered from no disability in proceedings against a subject in respect of torts committed against Crown property. The Ordinance makes no alteration regarding this matter. The only change brought about is procedural.

The Crown could not be sued for pure tort either by way of ordinary action or by way of petition of right and was not liable for the tortious acts or omissions of its servants. The only remedy was to sue the actual wrongdoers. Subject to cerain conditions this Ordinance confers the right to sue the Crown in tort as if the matter were one between subject and subject.

4. The Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute Ordinance, 1953. (No. 9 of 1953).

The object of this Ordinance is to estabish an Institute called the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute, the general objects of which shall be to promote by means of research and investigation the technical progress and efficiency of the sugar industry. The Institute will take over the work of the Government Sugarcane Research Station excepting the Extension Services of that station. The Institute is to be administered by a Board with powers to promote and undertake technical and scientific research in connection with the sugar industry. The expenditure of the Institute will be provided from funds raised by means of a special cess on sugar.

5. The Transfer of Shares and Debentures Ordinance, 1953. (No. 14 of 1953).

This Ordinance makes better provision for the registration of transfers of shares or debentures. Stricter control is exercised over the transfer of debentures or shares of companies, associations and partnerships by providing that such transfer will be by deed.

6. Succession Duties (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 15 of 1953).

This Ordinance increases duties payable on successions and donations. Its provisions also purport to check the evasion of payment of the appropriate duty on donations from ascendants to descendants alleged to be *bona fide* transactions between ascendants and descendants in which consideration moves from the descendants.

7. The Old Age Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 21 of 1953).

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This Ordinance increases the rate of old age pensions from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 per mensem and reduces the qualifying age for women from 65 years to 60 years.

It also remedies certain anomalies and defects in the Old Age Pensions Ordinance, 1951, e.g., (i) section 3 (2) of that Ordinance referred to an applicant's monthly income calculated in accordance with the provisions of section 6. As certain items of section 6 referred to yearly income, it was necessary to spread the income over the year. In case of earnings for employment during a part only of the year, it was not certain whether the same principle of assessment should apply. This Ordinance lays down that an income, whether earned monthly or otherwise, in excess of Rs. 360 a year would disqualify a person for eligibility for pension ; (ii) Aliens were in a better position as regards the prerequisite of residence than natural born British subjects ; this Ordinance remedies the position ; (iii) An amendment to section 8 of the principal Ordinance removes the hardship created in certain cases by the delaying of payment of pension to an applicant until after the first day of the month following his application.

8. The Legislative Council Ordinance (No. 22 of 1953).

This Ordinance determines and regulates the privileges, immunities and powers of the Legislative Council and of its members and gives protection to the persons employed in the publication of the reports and other papers of the Legislative Council.

9. The Public Service Commission Ordinance (No. 23 of 1953).

The object of this Ordinance is to establish a Civil Service Commission. The Commission shall consist of four members (including the Chairman) to be appointed by the Governor. Members of the Legislative Council and of the Executive Council as well as those of local bodies are disqualified for appointment, as also public officers (except in a temporary capacity or when on leave prior to retirement). The Governor may under the Ordinance call for the advice of the Commission in respect of practically all situations concerning public officers from the time of their recruitment to that of their retirement. Provision is made for the punishment of those who give false information to the Commission with a view to securing the appointment or promotion of applicants. Attempting to influence any decision of the Commission is made an offence. Members of the Commission are to enjoy the same immunity from law suits as Magistrates.

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10. The Agricultural Bank (Validation of Certain Loans) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 25 of 1953).

The Mauritius Agricultural Bank is by virtue of Ordinance No. 68 of 1950 empowered to make loans for the purpose, *inter alia*, of erecting houses and for purposes incidental, accessory and ancillary thereto. A doubt had arisen as to whether repairs and improvement to buildings had rightly been considered incidental purposes as above, and whether loans made for those purposes had been validly made. The object of this Ordinance is therefore to validate such loans.

11. The Juvenile Offenders (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 26 of 1953).

This Ordinance, which aims at bringing the law governing the death penalty in respect of young persons into line with the law in the United Kingdom, amends the Juvenile Offenders Ordinance by laying down that sentence of death shall not be pronounced against a person who was below the age of 18 years at the time of committing an offence punishable by death.

12. The Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 28 of 1953).

This Ordinance in conjunction with regulations amending the Prisons Regulations concerning the release of prisoners on licence provide that prisoners who have been sentenced to penal servitude and to whom the system of remission days does not apply, may be released on licence after serving two-thirds of their sentence. Formerly a prisoner sentenced to penal servitude more than twice was not eligible for release on licence.

13. The Cyclone and Drought Insurance Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 29 of 1953).

The Sugar Industry Retiring Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 30 of 1953).

The main object of these Ordinances is to extend the scope of the Sugar Industry Retiring Fund so that it should include employees of the Cyclone and Drought Insurance Board with retrospective effect to the 1st of March, 1947. The benefit of the Fund is also extended to the employees of the Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute Board.

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14. The Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 31 of 1953).

This Ordinance extends to officers to whom a gratuity without pension had been granted under Ordinance No. 30 of 1881 and who were subsequently re-employed, the right, conditional upon the refund of the gratuity within six months of the commencement of this Ordinance, to reckon their previous service towards pension.

15. The Quarantine Ordinance, 1953. (No. 39 of 1953).

The object of this Ordinance is to bring the law regulating quarantine into line with modern legislation. It is largely borrowed from the law regulating quarantine in Trinidad and it implements the International Sanitary Regulations, 1952, in so far as they are applicable to Mauritius.

16. The Consular Conventions Ordinance, 1953. (No. 40 of 1953).

This Ordinance has been enacted with a view to enabling full effect to be given to certain consular conventions concluded between the United Kingdom and foreign countries. It confers upon consular officers of foreign states with which consular conventions are concluded by Her Majesty's Government certain powers relating to the administration of the estates and property of deceased persons, restricts the powers of constables and other persons to enter the consular offices of such states and provides for the remission of taxes, fees and other charges in acordance with those conventions.

17. The Police (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 41 of 1953).

The main object of this Ordinance is to effect a change in the mode of enlistment in the Police Force. The former system of a three-year engagement followed by successive periods of equal duration is done away with and replaced by a system of service on probation for not less than eighteen months. The Ordinance makes also minor amendments relating to the punishment of members of the Force.

18. The Customs Tariff (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 42 of 1953).

This Ordinance increases customs duties on tea and effects consequential amendments to the Customs Tariff Ordinance.

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19. The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 43 of 1953).

The effect of this Ordinance is to replace Schedules ' A ', ' B ' and ' C ' to the Merchant Shipping Ordinance which lay down the scale of fees to be charged for various matters transacted under the Ordinance. These Schedules were out of date. Schedule ' B ' has been omitted altogether and a new schedule has been added with a view to authorising the levy of fees relating to business other than the engagements and discharge of seamen at the Mercantile Marine Office.

20. The Lesser Dependencies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 45 of 1953).

The object of the Ordinance is to repeal section 15 of Ordinance No. 4 of 1904 in order to give effect to a provision of the International Labour Convention that all penal sanctions for any breach of contract to which the Convention applies should be abolished progressively and as soon as possible.

21. The Distribution of German Enemy Property Ordinance, 1953. (No. 47 of 1953).

This Ordinance provides for the collection and realisation of German Enemy Property vested in the Custodian of Enemy Property and for the distribution of the proceeds thereof.

22. The Development (General Purposes) Loan Ordinance, 1953. (No. 51 of 1953).

This Ordinance provides for the raising by the Government of a loan not exceeding fifty million rupees for the purpose of (i) financing a sewerage scheme ; (ii) lending money to the Central Electricity Board ; and (iii) providing funds for development generally. The money required may be raised either in the United Kingdom or in the Colony. As regards money which may be raised locally, the Ordinance provides for the issue of bonds.

23. The Military Units (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 52 of 1953).

This Ordinance amends the Military Units Ordinance, 1946, by providing that persons enlisted under the provisions of that Ordinance be retained in service after the expiry of the period of their engagement in the event of war or general mobilization. The Ordinance applies to all persons to be enlisted in the future. As regards persons already engaged at the commencement of the Ordinance, it will only apply to such of them as volunteer to be governed by its provisions.

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24. The Sugar Industry Reserve Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953). (No. 53 of 1953).

By virtue of this Ordinance as from the 1st of January, 1953:—

(a) The Sugar Industry Price Stabilization Fund is closed and the proceeds thereof are transferred to the Cyclone and Drought Insurance Fund ;

(b) The monies accruing to the Sugar Industry Rehabilitation Fund are allocated to the Sugar Millers Rehabilitation Fund and Sugar Planters Rehabilitation Fund in the proportion of the sugars accruing to the millers and planters, respectively, out of each crop, instead of in the proportion of 82 per cent and 18 per cent.

25. The Fire Services Ordinance, 1953. (No. 56 of 1953).

This Ordinance regulates the fire services of the Colony. It reproduces the provisions of various Defence Regulations made during the war. The Municipality of Port Louis will continue to have its own Fire Brigade which will give protection against fire in the District and Town of Port Louis. The Fire Services regulated by this Ordinance will be for the protection of the rest of the Island. Town Councils will contribute to the upkeep of the Fire Services in return for the protection afforded to their respective areas.

26. The Prisons (Amendment No. 2) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 57 of 1953).

The object of this Ordinance is to effect a change in the system of enlistment of Prisons Officers by doing away with the necessity of re-engagement of a recruit every three years and providing for a minimum probationary period of eighteen months prior to confirmed enlistment.

27. The Income Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. No. 58 of 1953).

This Ordinance excludes from the incidence of Income Tax members of the Forces in respect of gratuities granted to them for war services, beneficiaries of retiring allowances in respect of such allowances, and dependants of a person who dies as a result of injuries sustained in his employment in respect of the compensation received by them from the deceased's employer.

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28. The Sweepstakes and Bets (Levy of Tax) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 59 of 1953).

The Sweepstakes (Control) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 60 of 1953).

By amending the definition of ' body corporate ' in Ordinance No. 3 of 1948 and that of ' club ' in Ordinance No. 52 of 1946 these two Ordinances enable the Governor in Council to approve of the organisation of sweepstakes and the negotiation of bets under the control of incorporated Societies or Associations other than, and in addition to, the clubs enumerated in the Schedule to Ordinances Nos. 3 of 1948 and 52 of 1946 respectively.

Ordinance No. 59 of 1953 provides also for stricter control of race-course betting and with a view to preventing loss of revenue, gives the Accountant General the discretion either of granting or of refusing to grant a licence to a bookmaker or pari-mutuel organizer.

29. The Importation of Publications (Prohibition) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 61 of 1953).

This Ordinance empowers the Governor in Council to prohibit the importation into the Colony of publications which would in his opinion be contrary to public interest and provides penalties for the importation, sale and distribution of publications imported in breach of any prohibition made under the Ordinance.

30. The Profiteering Court (Abolition) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 63 of 1953).

The Profiteering Court had been re-established by Ordinance No. 84 of 1951 for the purpose of efficiently checking black market and profiteering. The situation as regards supplies having now considerably improved the need for a special tribunal for the trial of profiteering offences no longer exists. This Ordinance abolishes the Profiteering Court and vests the ordinary District Courts with the same jurisdiction as the Magistrate of the Profiteering Court possessed in respect of penalties for offences connected with profiteering.

31. The Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 64 of 1953).

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Section 12 of the Maintenance Orders (Facilities for Enforcement) Ordinance provided for reciprocal arrangements for the enforcement of maintenance orders between Mauritius and British possessions or territories under Her Majesty's protection. This Ordinance has for effect to extend the provisions of that section to any country within the Commonwealth.

32. The Education (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 65 of 1953).

This Ordinance changes the basis of award of the English Scholarships so far as boy candidates are concerned with effect from the time when awards are made after the scholarship examination held in or about December, 1956. Instead of the four scholarships (two on the Arts Side and two on the Science Side) intended for boy candidates being equally shared between suitable candidates from the Royal College on the one hand and the approved secondary schools on the other, the award of the Scholarships will henceforth be made out of a common list of the Scholarship candidates for both the Royal College and the approved secondary schools.

33. The Registration of Associations (Amendment) Ordinance, 1953. (No. 66 of 1953).

As a result of the amendments made by this Ordinance to the Registration of Associations Ordinance, 1949:—

(a) It is no longer necessary for the secretary of a registered association to furnish every year to the Registrar a list of all members of that association ;

(b) The Registrar is given specific directions as to what steps he should take regarding the disposal of the property of an association dissolved by resolution ;

(c) It is made clear that the provisions of Ordinance No. 45 of 1949 apply to societies existing before the passing of that Ordinance and power is given to the Registrar to demand that their rules be consistent with the provisions of Ordinance No. 45 of 1949.

34. The Political Uniforms and Military Associations (Prohibition) Ordinance, 1953, (No. 67 of 1953).

This Ordinance prohibits the wearing of uniforms in connection with political objects and the maintenance by private persons of associations of military or similar character.

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Chapter 9—Justice, Police and Prisons

Justice

The Laws of Mauritius are mainly based on the French Codes. The French Civil Code, Penal Code, Code of Commerce and Code of Civil Procedure, with such amendments as have been made thereto to suit local conditions, are still to a large extent in force in the Island. There is also a great number of Ordinances.

The Bankruptcy Law, the Law of Evidence and the Law of Civil and Criminal Procedure are, however, mostly English, as well as the whole system of the Labour Laws.

The highest judicial authority is the Supreme Court of Judicature presided over by the Chief Justice assisted by three Puisne Judges.

The Executive Officer of that Court is the Master and Registrar, who is also a Judge of the Bankruptcy Division of the Court.

The Supreme Court is a superior Court of record and has the same powers, authority and jurisdiction as the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice in England.

It exercises jurisdiction in divorce matters, and Admiralty jurisdiction in virtue of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act 1890 and is also a Court of Equity. It has powers of supervision over all the other Courts of the Colony and hears appeals from the Supreme Court of the Colony of Seychelles.

Appeals lie to the Privy Council in certain cases against judgments of the Supreme Court.

The Judges of the Supreme Court preside over the Assize Court, the verdict being returned by a jury of nine men ; the decision must be that of at least seven out of the nine members.

The District Magistrates of the Colony have jurisdiction in civil cases in which the subject matter does not exceed one thousand rupees in value. They hold judicial enquiries in cases of accidental death, or of fire, and preliminary enquiries in cases triable at the Assize Court. In addition they deal with certain matters in Chambers.

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The summary jurisdiction of the District Courts in criminal matters is vested in a District Magistrate who deals with the less serious offences and is empowered to sentence an accused party to imprisonment with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding one year, and to a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees.

Certain offences may be tried by an intermediary Court consisting of a Bench of three Magistrates who can impose a sentence of penal servitude of not more than three years and a sentence of imprisonment of not more than two years.

The number of Magistrates is now 11. One of them, who is also the Civil Commissioner for Rodrigues, administers justice in that Dependency.

A visiting Magistrate inspects once annually each of the Lesser Dependencies.

There is in addition an Industrial Court which is presided over by a Magistrate and which has jurisdiction in all labour disputes including workmen's compensation and matters arising out of factory legislation.

The administrative control over the Magistracy has, since 1945, been vested in the Chief Justice.

The majority of the civil cases brought before District Courts concern claims for money, or possession of tenement, or ownership of land.

On the criminal side, most of the cases, other than petty breaches of the law, relate to offences involving fraud, e.g., larceny, embezzlement, or swindling or offences against the person, e.g., wounds, blows, or attempts on chastity, or breaches of the road traffic laws.

There were 516 cases entered before the Supreme Court as compared with 429 in 1952.

1,232 cases were entered before the Industrial Court as against 1,352 in 1952.

3,480 civil cases and 36,984 criminal cases were heard by the District Courts during the year.

The Profiteering Court which was set up in February 1952, for the trial of cases relating to various forms of profiteering heard 534 cases this year.

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Police

Functions

The functions of the Mauritius Police Force are prescribed by Section 14 of the Police Ordinance and include the following duties:—

Preserving the Public Peace ;

Preventing and detecting crimes, misdemeanours contraventions ;

Regulating Traffic ;

Executing Warrants and Summonses issued by the Courts.

Strength

The Police Force consists of a Commissioner of Police and of such other Officers, Non Commissioned Officers, and Constables as may be determined by the Governor from time to time with the approval of the Secretary of State. The strength of the Police on 31st December, 1953, was:—

Commissioner of Police	1
Deputy Commissioner of Police ...	1
Police Medical Officer	1
Superintendents of Police	10
Assistant Superintendents of Police ...	11
Band Master	1
Pay Master	1
Assistant Pay and Quartermaster ...	1
Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors	82
Sergeants	97
Corporals	99
Police Constables	655
Police Women	25
TOTAL	985

Organisation

The Mauritius Police Force has an authorised establishment of 28 Officers and 1,036 other ranks. In addition, there are 25 Police Women who are employed on clerical work.

In addition to their primary responsibility for preventing and detecting crimes and for maintaining law and order, the Police are responsible for the control of immigration and emigration, weights and measures, issuing of licences (motor vehicles, drivers, liquor, firearms, etc.), the collection of inland revenue, the supervision of licensed premises and other extraneous duties.

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The Constables are trained in foot and baton drill, and a number of selected personnel in each District and at Headquarters are trained in the use of tear smoke.

The Commissioner of Police assisted by the Deputy Commissioner of Police and other Officers has his Headquarters at Line Barracks in Port Louis.

The personnel of the Force is distributed among:—

(a) Police Headquarters and the following Branches:

(i) Criminal Investigation and Revenue and Liquor Branch
(ii) Pay and Quartermaster's Branch
(iii) Road Traffic Branch
(iv) Training School and Reserve
(v) Forensic Science Laboratory
(vi) The Band
(vii) The Rodrigues Police
(viii) The Water Police
(ix) The Railway Police.

(b) Six Police Districts controlling 48 Police Stations and Posts.

The Criminal Investigation Department

This Branch is responsible for the investigation of serious crimes and cases of a special nature such as frauds and defalcations; it also affords assistance to the District Police when necessary and collates the statistics of crime for the whole Island.

To the C.I.D. are attached the Finger Print and *Modus Operandi* Bureau, the Photographic Section, the Immigration and Passport Section, the Central Registry of Habitual Criminals and the Revenue and Liquor Section.

Finger Print and Modus Operandi Bureau

47 scenes were visited by the staff and articles bearing Finger prints were brought to the Finger Print Office by the District Police in 154 cases. Decipherable prints were found in 63 cases.

26 indentifications were made. In 8 cases finger prints were the sole evidence available against the accused parties.

In 6 cases, documents bearing finger prints were referred to the Finger Print Office and in 5 cases identity was established,

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The Finger Print slips of 10,825 criminals (males and females) are on record.

The scene of crime collection contains 94 photographs of unidentified prints found at scenes of crime.

The palm print collection contains 1,423 records.

843 Criminals showing a distinctive *Modus Operandi are* registered in a method Index.

The Photographic Section

36 scenes of crime and 76 fatal or serious accidents, 5 unidentified bodies, and 390 criminals were photographed.

Immigration and Passport Section

During the year, 1,061 passports were issued, 282 renewed and 279 visaed. 12 Emergency Certificates of Nationality were issued and 100 Forms of Affidavit in lieu of passports were registered.

The Immigration staff attended 328 ships arriving in port and 152 aircraft at Plaisance Airport.

6,895 persons entered the Colony, including 60 Immigrants and 6,850 left the Colony including 110 Emigrants.

In March 1952, the Passport Office took over from the Post Office the issue of Seamen's Nationality and Identity Certificates to British seamen. During the year 1953, 45 such certificates had been issued.

Supervision of Habitual Criminals

Supervision is maintained over Habitual Criminals and bad characters who are sentenced to Police Supervision by the Courts. There were 2,138 re-convicted male criminals in the Island including 140 first offenders re-convicted during the year.

Revenue and Liquor Section

This Section controls the collection of Inland Revenue and for that purpose keeps a card index record of all trade licences issued quarterly. Regular checks of licensed premises are affected by the personnel of the Section, whose duties also include the prevention and detection of offences against the Distillery, Liquor, Dangerous Drugs, and Weights and Measures Laws. The Section pays particular attention to the detection of opium offences, illicit distillation of spirits and to the prevention of gambling in private clubs,

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Pay and Quartermaster's Branch

Under the charge of the Pay and Quartermaster of the Force, this Branch is divided into two Sections: the Pay Section and the Store Section, the latter under the special charge of the Assistant Pay and Quartermaster.

The Pay section is responsible for all the finance and accounting of the Force and for the collection of inland revenue ; the Store Section deals with the indenting of materials, the manufacture and issue of uniforms for all ranks, and the supply generally of stores and accoutrements to the Force.

Road Traffic Branch

Police Vehicles in use: —

Motor Cycles (solos)	20
Land Rovers	6
Wireless vans	3
Stations Waggons...	12
Prisoners' vans	3
Lorries	5
Motor cars	4

Motor cycle patrols were distributed throughout the six Police Districts and worked under the orders of the District Superintendents. This arrangement is more economical and less fatiguing for the staff than having all the patrol men concentrated in one Branch; but experience has shown that certain sections of road, e.g., the Route Royale from Port Louis to Curepipe, require special and unremitting attention, and it may be necessary during 1954, when a superintendent is available to take charge of the Branch, to return this duty to the special care of the Traffic Branch.

One of the wireless vans is fitted with a loud hailer which is used for traffic and crowd control.

In direct proportion to the increasing number of vehicles the accident rate continues to rise.

Owing to other commitments, it was impracticable during the year to undertake the much-needed task of organising special traffic safety and courtesy measures. Nevertheless, the traffic branch set up a road safety exhibition at the " Exposition des Maisons Claires " in November and a gratifying attendance of over 3,000 people witnessed the various exhibitions which included a brake reaction test, safety film and film strip.

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A formation of Police Motor-cyclists took part in the Coronation Tattoo in July.

The Police garage, staffed by a Sub-Inspector mechanic assisted by 11 mechanics, one coach builder, two painters, one upholsterer and one electrician is well equipped to carry out the maintenance and repairs on the 53 vehicles belonging to the Force.

A drawing office with a qualified draughtsman in charge is also attached to this Branch.

A Transport Adviser arrived in the Colony in March and was appointed Chairman of the Transport Control Board with effect fom 1st July. The Commissioner of Police remained on the Board as Vice Chairman.

The Transport Adviser continued and greatly expanded the work of the Board in seeking to unify and rationalise the bus system in the Colony. To assist him it was necessary to second 1 Sub-Inspector and 2 Sergeants to work under his orders as Field Assistants.

Training School

Recruits from among young men of the local population are enlisted between the ages of 18 and 25, after undergoing educational and medical examinations. Selections are made by a Board of Officers appointed and convened for the purpose.

The School aims at training the members of the Force on the same lines as the training given in England, and to inculcate in them tact, patience, tolerance, good humour, initiative and ability to rely on their own judgment and resources.

The normal period of training of recruits at the Training School, is six months, which affords time to give adequate instructions in laws, police duties and procedure, general knowledge, first aid, elementary drill, riot drill and physical training.

Recruits undergo theoretical training for the first three months and practical training, including station and street duties, during the second half of their stage at the school.

Recruiting for the implementation of the 8 hours scheme made limited progress due to lack of suitable candidates for enlistment. The better conditions of service which now prevail and the revised rates of pay have not yet acted as attractions against the high wages which can be earned in industry.

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The Band

The Mauritius Police Band which was first established in 1921 is a full military brass band, composed of trained musicians. A dance orchestra was formed in 1947 from among members of the Band.

The Band visited Rodrigues in March 1953 to give a series of concerts and to stimulate interest in the small Rodrigues Band.

The Band took part in the parade held in honour of Her Majesty the Queen's Coronation and massed with the K.A.R. and Royal Marines Bands in a Tattoo organised to celebrate the same occasion.

The Water Police

This unit is composed of 1 N.C.O and 9 Constables who work under the orders of a gazetted Officer.

The unit is equipped with a motor launch and its duties consist in maintaining order in the harbour of Port Louis, preventing smuggling and illegal emigration and immigration.

The launch attended 330 ships compared with 280 in 1952.

The Rodrigues Police

The Rodrigues Police commanded by an Assistant Superintendent are responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the dependency. The establishment of this Police formation is 1 Officer and 27 other ranks.

The Railway Police

1 Sub Inspector, 1 Sergeant and 9 Constables are attached to the Railway Department as a special Force to deal with offences committed on the Railway.

The Forensic Science Laboratory

This important institution of the Force was established in 1938 and maintains a high degree of professional competence. It is under the charge of the Police Medical Officer assisted by a suitably trained staff.

The Forensic Science Laboratory deals with the scientific examination of exhibits, the examination of documents and identification of handwriting and typewriting in relation to cases of forgery and kindred offences. It also deals with any other aspect of crimes requiring scientific investigation.

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Lectures on medical jurisprudence, first aid and hygiene are delivered regularly by the Police Medical Officer.

First Aid—St. John Ambulance Association

Courses of instruction in First Aid are given to members of the Force, the Railway Department and the Fire Service. All lectures are delivered by qualified Medical Officers or lay lecturers with the assistance of instructors for practical demonstration, in accordance with the regulations of the St. John Ambulance Overseas. Examinations were held during the year ; 308 members of the Police Force are now qualified and hold the St. John's certificate.

A Mauritius Police Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade has been formed and registered at the Overseas Headquarters in England. *The Home Nursing Division* which was registered and approved on 1st April, 1952, is now 28 strong.

Games, Recreation and Welfare

As much time as possible is devoted to the playing of games and to recreation generally. The Force possesses good football, volley ball and hockey teams. Inter-District and friendly matches with local teams are frequently played.

The Officers, Inspectors, N.C.Os and Constables each have their own mess and Recreation Rooms.

A well-stocked canteen is open to all ranks of the Force.

The Police Band contributes to official and semi-official functions in the various messes and institutions of the Force.

A Library and reading room is open daily to members of the Force and to public subscribers. Books, Reviews, and newspapers are regularly imported and are circulated throughout the Colony among members of the Force posted at out-stations in the Country Districts.

The stock of English and French Books in the Library is 11,430.

A Police Federation of all ranks from Inspector to Constables exists for the consideration of any matters concerning the welfare and efficiency of its members, other than matters of discipline and promotions affecting individuals.

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Firearms

Firearms are strictly controlled. The number of firearms licensed during the year was 5,431.

Police Reserve and Special Constables

In accordance with Section 53 of the Police Ordinance (16 of 1893) Special Constables may be appointed at any time. With the approval of the Governor, a Police Reserve consisting principally of retired Police and Service Officers, has been enrolled and is available for mobilisation at short notice. The Officers of the Police Reserve are appointed to command Special Constables registered at each District or Police Station area on a pattern similar to the Regular Police.

The Function of the Reserve is to provide a cadre of steady and reliable citizens to augment the regular Police and to release trained Policemen from routine duties in an emergency.

Crimes

The total number of offences reported in 1953 were:—

Crimes	971
Misdemeanours...	17,172
Contraventions	40,707

CRIMES

Offences	*No. of cases reported*	*No. of true cases*	*No. of cases prosecuted*	*No. of cases in which no Court Proceedings were taken*	*No. of cases pending investigation at the close of the year*
I. Offences against the Person :					
Murder	8	6	4	—	1
Manslaughter	3	3	3	—	—
Wounds & Blows causing death or loss of limb or eye.	9	9	7	2	—
Abortion	3	1	1	—	1
II. Offences against Property :					
Larceny night breaking ...	102	80	34	42	17
Larceny with violence ...	93	39	24	15	13
Larceny armed with offensive weapon ...	1	1	1	—	—
Larceny with other aggravating circumstances ...	381	340	223	117	18
Arson	19	9	—	9	7
Criminal damage to property	1	1	1	—	—
Currency offences (including coinage)	2	1	1	—	—

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III. Frauds :					
Frauds (swindling, extortion, etc.)	190	114	80	32	26
IV. Offences against Morality :					
Offences against Morality (Rape, etc.)	64	39	28	11	3
V. Crimes not included in Groups I to IV :					
Other Crimes	95	72	66	6	12
Grand Total—Crimes :					
TOTAL	971	715	473	234	98

MISDEMEANOURS

I. Offences against the person :					
Offences against the person	11,070	10,482	2,332	—	—
II. Offences against property :					
Offences v/s Property ...	3,190	2,273	707	—	—
III. Frauds :					
Frauds	708	285	173	—	—
IV. Misdemeanours not included in Groups I to III :					
Other misdemeanours ...	2,232	1,931	1,220	—	—
Grand Total—Misdemeanours :					
TOTAL ...	17,200	14,971	4,432	—	—

CONTRAVENTIONS

I. *Road Traffic Offences*

No. of cases reported	*No. of cases prosecuted*
25,677	19,363

II. *Offences against Distilleries and Liquor Laws*

No. of cases reported	*No. of cases prosecuted*
515	385

III. *Offences against Revenue, Weights and Measures Laws*

No. of cases reported	*No. of cases prosecuted*
1,128	841

IV. *Other Contraventions not included in Groups I to III*

No. of cases reported	*No. of cases prosecuted*
13,387	6,852

Grand Total—Contraventions

No. of cases reported	*No. of cases prosecuted*
40,707	27,439

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Juveniles were convicted in respect of the following offences :—

	1952	1953
Larceny with breaking	11	11
Larceny with night breaking	5	2
Larceny by person in receipt of wages	2	2
Larceny by servant	3	5
Larceny with violence	2	1
Larceny being two in number or more	30	10
Attempt at larceny	5	1
Larceny with aggravating circumstances ...	36	17
Larceny (simple)	120	73
Larceny Proedial	2	1
Fowl House Larceny	7	1
Possession of stolen property	3	5
Vagrancy	12	2
Forgery	3	3
Swindling	3	—
Rogue and vagabond	8	1
Assault	—	3
Sexual intercourse with female under 12	2	—
Aiding and abetting	2	—
Involuntary wounds and blows by imprudence ...	4	2
Wounds and Blows	53	79
Plundering	113	60
Miscellaneous offences	287	138
Cycle thefts	1	1
Wounds and Blows causing death	1	—
Possession of gandia	1	—
TOTAL	716	418

Prisons

The policy of the Prisons Department is to maintain in safe custody the offenders delivered to its care. Subject to this, every possible effort is made by education, by training in crafts, by the issue of books and periodicals, the showing of instructional films and the introduction of privileges for good behaviour to imbue the prisoners with a sense of dignity, of self respect and of duty towards the community such as will fit them to be useful citizens on completion of their term of sentence.

Penal Administration

There are three institutions in the Colony dealing with persons received from Courts:—

(a) Beau Bassin Prison ;

(b) The Borstal Institution, G.R.N.W. ;

(c) The Industrial School, Beau Bassin.

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(a) Beau Bassin Prison

Beau Bassin Prison, the main penal establishment in the Colony, consists of *two* three-storey blocks accommodating 760 prisoners in separate cells. There is also a workshop's block where the following trades are taught:—

Blacksmithing, Tinsmithing, Carpentry (2 shops), tailoring, shoemaking, basketmaking and masonry.

There are also two Hospital wards together with stores and Isolation Wards.

The administrative headquarters of the service are situated in this prison, where all receptions and discharges of both male and female prisoners are carried out.

Within the Men's Prison at Beau Bassin there are now six yards laid out with flower beds and lawns where prisoners can associate during their leisure periods.

Prisoners are segregated according to classification in the different yards:—

No. 1 Yard—Felon Recidivists.

No. 2 Yard—Misdemeanants (Recidivists).

No. 3 Yard—Punishment Yard.

No. 4 Yard—Stars (First offenders, all ages).

No. 5 Yard—Young prisoners (17–23 years).

No. 6 Yard—Remand Yard.

These classes are kept segregated as far as possible while at work.

There is a further grade system in operation whereby a prisoner can by good behaviour pass successively from Probationary to 3rd, 2nd and 1st Grade, each grade having certain privileges, such as extra books, longer time in association and the playing of games.

There are also "Special class" prisoners; these are first offenders, including Europeans who by reason of their education and standard of living prior to conviction are given separate accommodation, special diet and clothing during their imprisonment.

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Young prisoners now carry out recreational training under a trained instructor, morning and afternoon. There are also 3 voluntary recreational classes each evening.

A qualified school teacher is attached to the Department and takes 3 voluntary educational classes each evening after prison labour has ceased.

A cinema show of films of topical and educational interest is given inside the prison once a month.

During week-ends (Saturday and Sunday) the football pitch outside the prison is used by prisoners, and about 100 prisoners enjoy this privilege each week, not including those who go out as spectators. Prisoners now have their representative football team which plays against civilian teams on Wednesday evenings, when about 200 prisoners are permitted to attend as spectators.

Volley ball and Basket ball pitches inside the prison are in use daily after labour.

The number of Unofficial Visitors has increased both in the Mens' and Womens' Prison and their influence has proved very beneficial.

The women prisoners are housed in the new Women's Prison which was opened on 11th May, 1951. It adjoins the main prison but has a separate entrance. The grounds are attractively laid out with lawns, flowers and a vegetable plot. A large number of fruit trees and flowering shrubs has been planted.

The inmates, who are few in number, are taught sewing, gardening and mat weaving, the last by Unofficial Visitors.

Port Louis Prison

Port Louis Prison was closed on 16th March, 1953, and the few prisoners there transferred to Beau Bassin.

(b) The Borstal Institution, Grand River North-West.

The Borstal Institution is of minimum security and has accommodation for about 125 youths. It is run on similar lines to a Borstal in the United Kingdom.

The inmates are classified into the ordinary, probationary and special grades, and there is also a Penal grade for boys under punishment. They are divided into three Houses: Red, Blue and White, and work and play in competition in order to stimulate interest.

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The lads receive daily instruction in carpentry, tinsmithing, tailoring, cooking and gardening, in addition to Physical training and educational classes under a qualified teacher.

A party of boys is sent daily to the Forest Nursery for work and instruction.

Educational films are shown and explained to the lads twice monthly, and outdoor games are organised each evening. Lads of the Special and Probationary Grades bathe at the sea-side three times a week. Football matches are played against outside teams and an annual sports day has been instituted.

The boys attended their second camp in September this year.

A Borstal Visiting Committee meets monthly and, among other things, decides on questions of release.

(c) The Barkly Industrial School, Beau Bassin

The School has accomodation for about 200 boys and is run on the same lines as the. English approved school.

Boys up to the age of 18 years are catered for. The senior boys are divided into houses: red, white and blue, while the juniors (under 14) are in yellow house, where they are separately accommodated and fed.

A monthly house competition is run with points for conduct, cleanliness and upkeep of the house garden.

All junior boys attend school daily for four hours under qualified teachers, and receive primary school instruction up to the VIth Standard.

Senior boys who are illiterate attend school 3 evenings a week.

All boys have daily physical training under a qualified instructor, and in addition take part in organised games. Films of educational value are shown and commented on by the Visual Education Officer, and lectures on forestry, citizenship, electricity and animal husbandry have been given by qualified persons who have offered their services to help the boys.

A party of 12 senior boys work and receive instruction daily at the Agricultural Gardens.

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The School drum and fife band is popular and always appreciated.

All boys have an opportunity of spending a fortnight under canvas at the sea-side.

Instruction in tinsmithing, brushmaking, shoemaking, carpentry, cooking and gardening is given to the boys according to their aptitude.

Prison Discipline

During 1953, 638 reports were dealt with as follows:—

7 by the Prison Board.

631 by the Commissioner.

No corporal punishment was ordered or inflicted.

Remissions

All prisoners sentenced to imprisonment whether by one sentence or by consecutive sentences for a period of not less than 30 days are entitled to have one-third of their sentence remitted.

No payment is made for prison labour, though an earnings scheme is now being prepared.

Prison Statistics

Treatment of Offenders

Persons sentenced to	*Adults*		*Non Adults*		*Total*
	M.	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	
Death	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1
Deprivation of Liberty (Imprisonment) with or without other sanctions ...	580	11	106	9	706
Financial penalty	128	3	9	2	142
Corporal punishment with or without other sanctions	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Borstal Institution	Nil	Nil	49	Nil	49
Industrial School	Nil	Nil	50	2	52
TOTAL	708	14	215	13	950

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INSTITUTIONS

Type of Institution	*Number*	*Adult*		*Non Adult*		*Convicted persons*		*Persons on Remand or detained*		*Debtors*	*Mental Patients*	*Custodial*	*Others*
		M	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*				
Prisons	1,484	366·76	6·48	Not available for separate figure		338·35	6·15	27·87	−·33	−·24	—	134+ 3 women	+ see under
Borstal Institution...	49	Nil	Nil	105·48	Nil	105·48	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	49	—
Industrial School ...	114	Nil	Nil	152·69	2·24	50	2	62	Nil	Nil	Nil	29	—

+ Prisons Others = 4 Clerks, 1 Storekeeper, 5 Teachers, 3 Messengers, 1 Medical Officer (Part Time), Total Custodial and others = 208.

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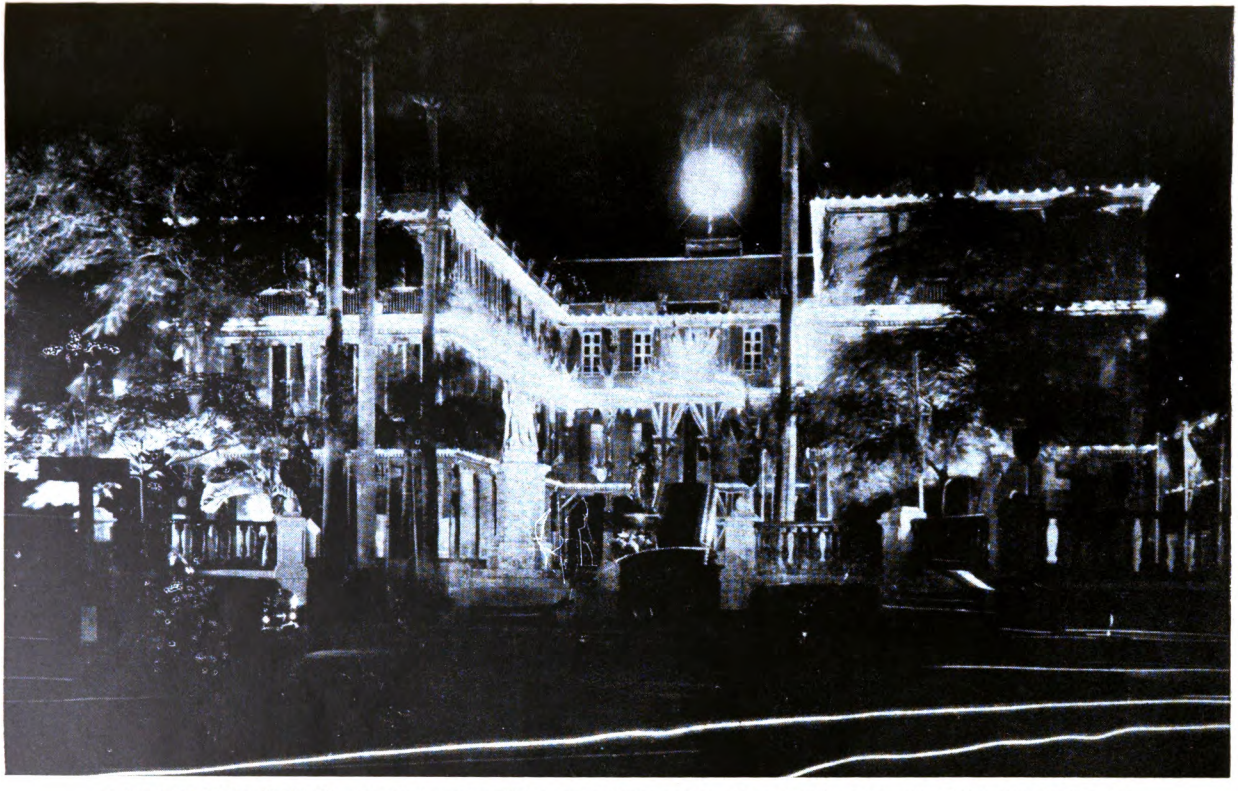

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, PORT LOUIS WAS FLOODLIT ON THE OCCASION OF THE CORONATION

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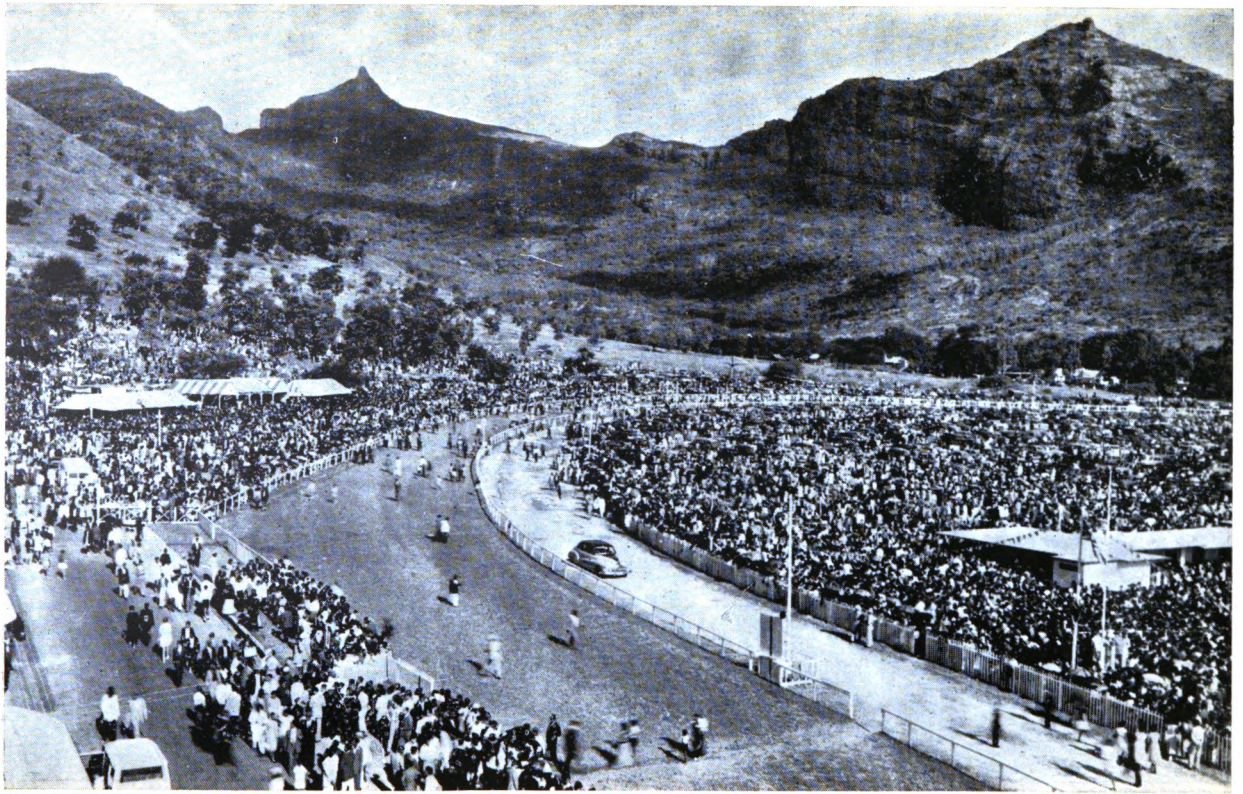

A RACE MEETING AT THE CHAMP DE MARS IN PORT LOUIS WAS A FEATURE OF THE CORONATION CELEBRATIONS

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TEA PLUCKERS AT THE EXPERIMENTAL STATION. THIS TEA WAS PLANTED LESS THAN THREE YEARS AGO. THE GROWTH IS EXCELLENT AS A RESULT OF GOOD CLIMATIC CONDITIONS AND SOIL

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A SCENE IN THE FIELD DURING THE CROP SEASON

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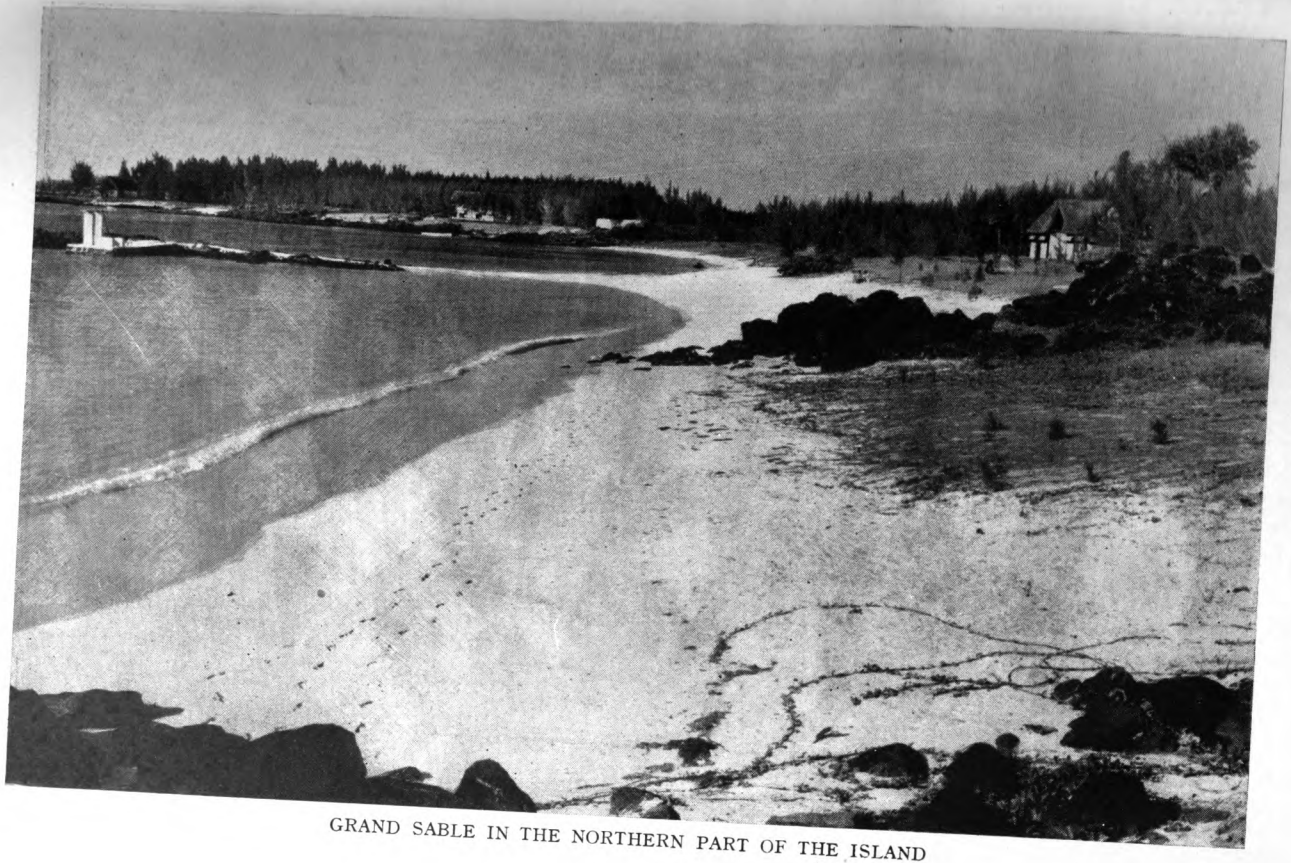

GRAND SABLE IN THE NORTHERN PART OF THE ISLAND

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VISITORS TO THE ISLAND ARE STRUCK BY THE UNUSUAL SHAPES OF THE MOUNTAINS WHICH RISE ABRUPTLY FROM THE PLAIN

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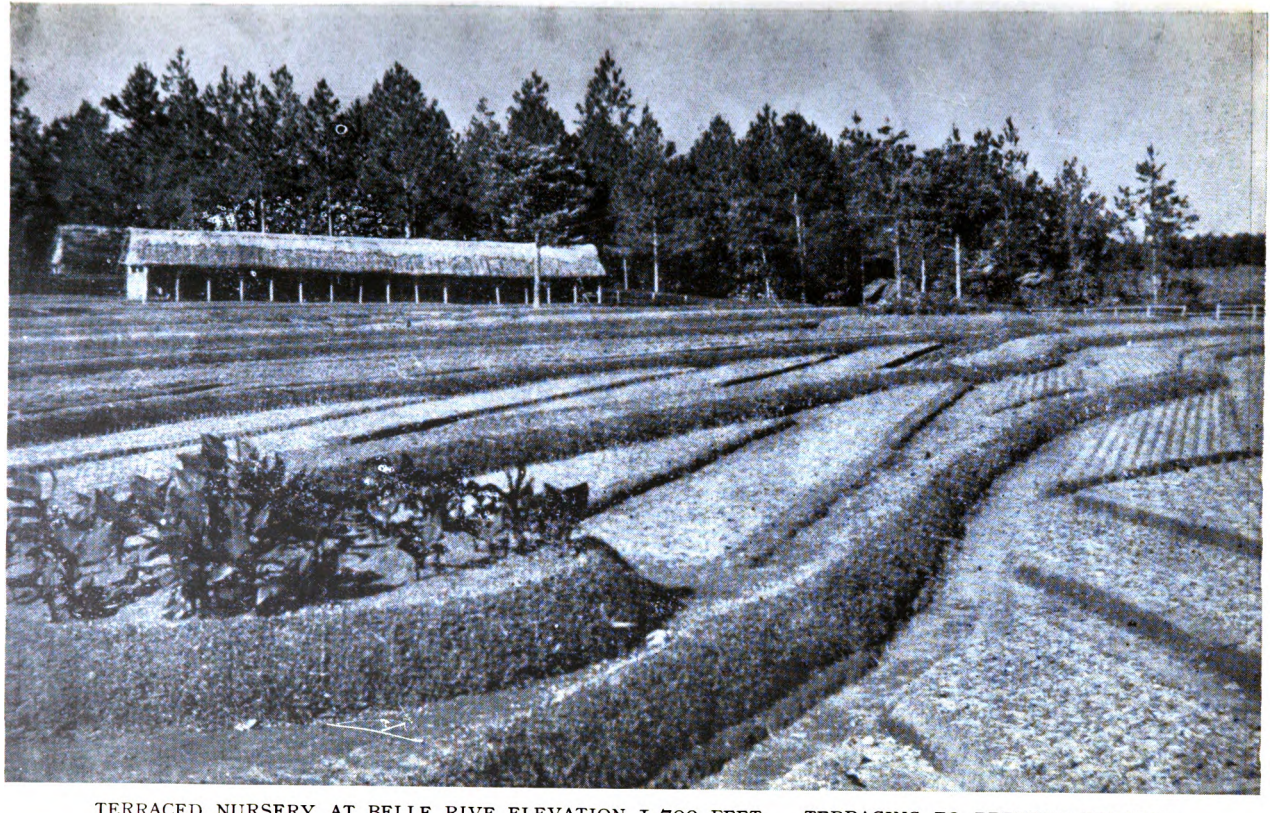

TERRACED NURSERY AT BELLE RIVE ELEVATION 1,700 FEET. TERRACING TO PREVENT EROSION

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A DEMONSTRATION OF STUMPING YOUNG TEA PLANTS IN THE NURSERY BEFORE PLANTING IN THE FIELD

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Chapter 10—Public Utilities and Public Works

Electricity

A Central Electricity Board was constituted in December, 1952 and has now taken over the functions and duties of the Electricity and Telephones Department under the Electricity Ordinance, 1939. The Board has also assumed the following additional duties:—

(a) to prepare and carry out development schemes with the general object of promoting, coordinating and improving the generation, transmission, distribution and sale of electricity for all purposes throughout the Colony ;

(b) to provide for new generating stations.

Electricity is provided by two privately owned hydro-electric undertakings which operate under licences issued by the Governor and the Central Electricity Board: The General Electric Supply Company and the Electric Generating Power Company Limited. In February 1953, the Board took over and operated on a " caretaker " basis the undertaking owned by the Electric Generating Company Limited, while negotiations were initiated for the purchase of the undertaking by the Board.

Electrical energy is also purchased in bulk by the Board from the General Electric Supply Company Limited for distribution outside the areas in which the Company is licensed to supply electricity.

Electricity is used mainly for domestic purposes but there is a steady increase in the demand of power for industrial purposes.

Details of the installed capacity of the hydro-electric stations in kilowatts and their output of kilowatt-hour units for 1953 are as follows:—

		Units
(*a*) General Electric Supply Co. Ltd :		
(i) Tamarin Power Station	8,000 kw	26,266,108
(ii) Reduit Power Station	600 kw	3.707,530
(*b*) Electric Generating Power Co. Ltd ...	310 kw	1,500,000 (estimated)

The existing hydro-electric power stations have reached their peak development and in order to meet the growing demand for electricity the Board is giving consideration to existing hydro-electric projects provided for under the Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan, a survey of other hydro-electric resources, and the installation of thermal plants. To meet the immediate situation an order was placed by the Board in 1953 for a thermal plant of 1,700 K.W. for delivery in 1954.

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Water Works

The existing water works system, the works at present being carried out for their development and the new works in hand have for object: (i) domestic supply purposes ; (ii) irrigation ; (iii) hydro-electric power ; (iv) drainage.

(i) *Domestic water supplies*

The two principal sources of water supply are now Mare-aux-Vacoas and Grand River North West. The supply of Mare-aux-Vacoas is derived from a storage reservoir of 597 million cubic feet capacity at an elevation of 1,850 feet above mean sea-level, and serves about half the population of the island situated in the district of Plaines Wilhems and part of the districts of Moka, Black River and Port Louis.

Important works of improvement to this water supply are being carried out under the Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan to further extend the supply and to meet the increased demand due to the growth of population and to the rise in the standard of living. The consumption at present is 6,000,000 gallons per day and the works of improvement provide for an increase to nearly 9,000,000 gallons in the future. The water is filtered and chlorinated before distribution. The supply is under the management of the Public Works Department.

The G.R.N.W. water supply is derived from the river of that name at an elevation of about 250 feet above sea level. The supply amounts to 5,000,000 gallons per day. It is managed by the Municipality of Port Louis and serves exclusively the town of Port Louis with a population of about 60,000. The water is filtered and chlorinated before use. Improvement works are being carried out by the Municipality under a loan by Government from Development and Welfare Funds.

Another source of supply, the Piton du Milieu Scheme, is now being developed and is intended to provide filtered and chlorinated water to localities in the North, East and South of the island, i.e. the districts of Rivière du Rempart, Flacq, Grand Port, Savanne and part of Moka, and to replace the present supplies to these localities which are derived from many sources and are lacking both in quality and quantity.

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The supply will be derived from a storage reservoir of 110 million cubic feet capacity at an elevation of 1,435 feet. The scheme is being carried out of Development and Welfare funds and will, when completed, supply 4,000,000 gallons per day to a population of 143,000 inhabitants. The reservoir was completed at the end of 1953 and work is continuing on the construction of the filtration plant and the laying of pipes for the distribution system.

(ii) *Irrigation*

Irrigation is carried out in Black River district from La Ferme Reservoir and in the northern districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart from La Nicolière Reservoir.

La Ferme Reservoir, at an elevation of 450 feet above sea level, has a capacity of 417 million cubic feet and serves to irrigate at present 2,500 acres. Additional supplies are being derived from Mare-aux-Vacoas, Mare Longue and Tamarin Falls Reservoirs by means of the Magenta Canal, now nearing completion which will bring another 1,500 acres under irrigation. The works are carried out under the Development Plan.

La Nicolière Reservoir, at an elevation of 800 feet above sea level, has a capacity of 200 million cubic feet and serves to irrigate at present 1,000 acres. The reservoir is linked to Midlands by the Midlands—La Nicolière Feeder Channel which is 17 miles long. The construction of a reservoir of 550 million cubic feet capacity at Midlands is proposed under the Development Plan. This project is still under investigation.

(iii) *Hydro-Electric Power*

Water for hydro-electric power is derived from Mare-aux-Vacoas reservoir (see above), from Mare Longue Reservoir, which has a capacity of 220 million cubic feet and is situated at an elevation of 1,900 feet above sea-level, and from Tamarin Falls Reservoir, which has a capacity of 72 million cubic feet and is at an elevation of 1,625 feet above sea level. All three reservoirs are situated in the catchment area of Tamarin River and supply water to the Power Station at the foot of the falls, 960 feet below Tamarin Falls Reservoir. The optimum capacity of the Power Station is 25,000,000 K.W.H. units per annum.

Water supplied to the Power Station is afterwards passed into the Magenta Canal for irrigation in the Black River District.

A hydro-electric project at Eau Bleue is still under investigation.

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(iv) *Sewerage and Sewerage Disposal*

A consultant has submitted detailed drawings, specifications and bills of quantities for reticulation and disposal in the township of Beau Bassin—Rose Hill. Legislation to empower the Government to borrow the funds required for the full balance was enacted at the end of the year.

Public Works

The Public Works and Surveys Department is responsible for:—

(a) Maintenance and construction of all Government works in connection with water supplies and related matters ; roads and bridges and cemeteries ; quays and machinery at the Harbour ; military works on behalf of the Military Authorities ; maintenance of Government buildings and construction of those costing Rs. 5,000 or less or situated in Rodrigues (other buildings are the responsibility of the Architect's Department, working through contractors).

(b) The management of all Crown lands as well as of lands forming part of the *domaine public,* and the acquisition of lands for public purposes.

(c) The valuation and the inspection of all lands pledged to Government ; the assessment of damages caused by fire to canefields or other properties and the assessment of compensation for property acquired.

(d) Advice on all questions relating to public works and to the above functions.

Surveys

Surveys in connection with the leases of Crown Lands and the acquisition of private properties for implementation of various Government Schemes continued as in the previous years.

The Royal Alfred Observatory

The Observatory Department maintains a meteorological and magnetic station at the Royal Alfred Observatory, Pamplemousses, an administrative and forecasting headquarters at Vacoas and a meteorological observing station at Plaisance Airfield. Meteorological observing stations are also maintained in the Dependencies at Agalega, Diego Garcia, Rodrigues and St. Brandon. Complete rainfall records were collected from about one hundred and fifty gauges distributed over the Colony. About 400 meteorological observations were collected each month from ships at sea.

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The daily weather maps covered as far as possible, the whole of the Indian Ocean and surrounding continents between 15°N and 50°S. Meteorological observations and forecasts were prepared and transmitted daily for the use of meteorological services of other countries, for shipping, aviation, Government departments and the public. Special warnings of tropical cyclones were provided and numerous general enquiries from authorities overseas and in the Colony were answered.

The new building for the Department's headquarters at Vacoas came into use during the year and much improvement in the organisation was possible. Nevertheless the continued reorganisation and extension of the Service could be only gradually implemented because of the shortage of senior staff and the serious lack of buildings in the Dependencies.

Government Fire Services

The functions of the Government Fire Services are prescribed by Section 4 of the Fire Services Ordinance and consist in taking all available measures with a view to extinguishing fires and to protecting life and property in case of fires, outside the District and Town of Port Louis, for which the Municipal Fire Brigade is responsible.

This Department comprises an Administrative Office and 5 Stations situated at Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes, Curepipe, Rivière des Anguilles and Mahebourg ; its establishment is composed of 1 Controller, 1 Office Supervisor, 1 Storekeeper, 1 Clerk, 1 Typist-Stenographer, 1 Messenger, 1 Chief Officer, 2 Station Officers, 12 Sub-Officers, and 92 Firemen.

The strength of the Mobile Appliances distributed to the various stations consisted of 6 Fire Engines, 10 large and 8 Tiny Trailer Pumps, 3 Water Lorries, 1 Water Trailer, 2 Cars, 1 Lorry, 1 Towing Unit, 1 Van, 2 Land Rovers, 1 " Scooter " Motor Cycle, and 7 Bicycles.

The total number of fire calls dealt with during the year was 200, an increase of 75 on the previous year. The losses caused by fires, apart from the Port Louis Municipal area, were assessed at Rs. 296,900 compared with Rs. 175,250 in the preceding 12 months.

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The installation of new water mains in the North of the Island has enabled this service to fit 12 hydrants in areas where previously there had been little or no water for Fire Fighting. It is intended eventually to have the Northern part of the Island provided with 266 hydrants which will be installed gradually as new mains are laid. 37 new hydrants were also installed in other districts.

Progress was made in the first development of the new station at Piton in the North. It had been hoped that this station would have been ready for occupation before the close of 1953, but difficulties experienced by the Contractors with regard to labour delayed occupation which had to be deferred to 1954.

The Fire Services Ordinance (No. 56 of 1953) was passed in the Legislative Council on 11th December 1953 and is to come into force on a day to be fixed by Proclamation.

New Regulations (G.N. 179 of 1953) framed under the Inflammable Liquids and Substances Ordinance No. 51 of 1952 to provide stricter control over handling and storage were made in October 1953 and should come into operation on 1st January 1954.

The average cost per man in the Service during the year was Rs. 2,866.17 while the cost of the Service per Head of Population (excluding the inhabitants of Port Louis) was Rs. 1.30.

Chapter 11—Communications

Shipping

Port Louis, the Capital of the island, is the only port ; ten ocean-going and four small vessels can be accommodated at any one time.

Vessels are normally moored at buoys in the harbour, though two quays are available, one of 492 feet and able to take a vessel of 29'0" drafts, and one of 390 feet for vessels of drafts up to 17 feet. Both coal and oil bunkers are available in limited quantities; there is a good supply of fresh water.

Regular cargo services are provided from the United Kingdom by Clan Line, Union Castle Line, Bullard King Ltd, and the Ellerman Lines ; and from Continental and French Mediterranean Ports by the French Companies, " Messageries Maritimes," " Nouvelle Compagnie Havraise Peninsulaire " and " Svedel " Line, (a combined French and Swedish firm).

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Passenger services direct from the United Kingdom to Mauritius are infrequent, the French vessels direct from Marseilles to Mauritius provide the better service.

The Dutch " Royal Interocean Line " vessels call at Port Louis regularly on the Far East, South Africa and South America service, thereby providing a regular passenger and cargo service to and from the Far East and South Africa, Passengers wishing to travel to the United Kingdom usually tranship from the Dutch vessels to the Union Castle Line at Durban.

A total of 330 vessels entered Port Louis harbour during the year, with a total Nett Registered tonnage of 1,189,708 tons.

Of the 330 vessels which entered 185 were of British Registry, 49 French, 46 Dutch, 19 Norwegian, 11 Swedish, 4 United States, 2 South African, 1 Chinese, 1 Italian, 7 Danish, 1 Japanese, 2 Panamanian and 2 Finnish.

Among the vessels to enter were 3 British Warships, 2 Yachts of British and Swedish Registry, and 16 Tankers ; 2 of these last have brought Petrol and Fuel and Diesel Oil in bulk to the island, while 5 Tankers loaded Molasses in bulk.

There are five small vessels on the local register, four of them employed on services to the dependencies of Mauritius, Madagascar and East Africa, and one employed in fishing ; these vessels have a combined tonnage of 2,213 Nett Registered Tons.

The numbers of passengers to enter and leave the island by ship during the year were 2,817, and 2,704 respectively.

Public Transport

Railways

The public railway system of Mauritius (4 feet 8½ in gauge) is operated by Government. The railway network has ninety-two miles of line, varying between sea-level and an altitude of 1,800 feet. Both passenger and goods services are maintained but the latter provide the bulk of the revenue. By law heavy machinery, sugar and fertilisers must be transported by the public railway system.

The deficit on the working of the railway, which amounted to Rs 2,699,283 in the financial year 1952–53, despite increases in rates with effect from 1st July, 1952, is a cause of concern and consideration is being given both to immediate economies such as

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the closing of branch line services, and to the eventual abandonment of the railway. In accordance with a recommendation made by the Secretary of State's Adviser on Inland Transport, who reported on the railway in 1950 a Transport Adviser has been appointed and took up his post early in 1953. His duties are, *inter alia*, to advise on the future of the railway. In October the Chamber of Agriculture set up a fact-finding committee to investigate the problems presented by the transport of heavy goods in the light of the financial position of the railway and the prospect of further increases in rates. Government has co-operated in the investigation by the committee, which had not been completed by the end of the year.

Statistics for the financial year ending 30th June, 1953, are as follows: —

Length of line open to traffic ...	Miles	92
Passengers carried	Number	2,128,966
Passengers receipts	Rs	298,762
Parcels carried	Number	115,789
Parcels receipts	Rs	71,226
Goods Traffic :—		
Sugar	Tons	399,360
Sugar canes	Tons	4,423
General Merchandise	Tons	66,328
Goods Traffic Receipts :—		
Sugar	Rs	3,107,165
Sugar canes	Rs	10,126
General Merchandise	Rs	311,256
Train Mileage	Train Miles	238,377
Receipts per train mile	Rs	17.26
Expenditure per train mile	Rs	3.099
Road Motor Service :—		
Total passenger vehicle miles ...	Vehicle Miles	76,789
Passengers carried	Number	260,110
Passengers receipts	Rs	56,220
Parcels carried	Number	1,881
Parcels receipts	Rs	530
Goods Traffic :—		
Sugar	Tons	62,743
General Merchandise	Tons	16,420
Goods Receipts :—		
Sugar	Rs	330,412
General Merchandise	Rs	69,840

Number of vehicles in service :—

10 lorries and 7 trailers
1 dual purpose vehicle
2 buses

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Bus Transport

At the beginning of the year the bus industry was, with the exception of a service between Black River and Port Louis operated by the Government Railway administration, in the hands of 165 individual operators owning a total of 200 buses licensed by the Transport Control Board. On his arrival the Transport Adviser, who came to Mauritius from British Railways and who had also been a director of a number of buses and road haulage companies in the United Kingdom, took over the duties of Chairman of the Transport Control Board from the Commissioner of Police. Under his chairmanship the Board devoted its attention to reorganisation of the bus industry into larger units. By the end of the year operators had been grouped in fourteen companies (in addition to an organisation operating urban services), each covering one route or more. This consolidation was an essential step towards improvement and development of the bus services to meet the increasing needs of the Colony which it should greatly facilitate. From August onwards time tables providing for regular services were in force and the issue of tickets was required.

Road Haulage

Of the 1,500 lorries in use, the majority are owned by sugar estates and cane planters and occupied mainly on the conveyance of cane to the factories, of materials for sugar estates and, to a lesser exent, of general goods which are not reserved by law to the railways.

Roads and Vehicles

Mauritius is provided with an excellent road system, consisting of some 710 miles of public main and branch roads, most of which are suitable for motor traffic. All the roads are metalled and about 329 miles are bitumen coated. Practically all the main roads are open to heavy motor vehicles, but owing to rapid development in road traffic during the past twenty years, the road system is not altogether satisfactory as many of the roads are too narrow for moderately fast transport to operate in safety. There are also numerous blind corners, very populous villages to travel through, while the roads are further congested by the slow moving goods transport and the large public transport vehicles.

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The maintenance of proclaimed main and branch roads continued in the normal way, and improvements were also carried out. Asphalt was applied to an additional mileage (22 miles) of roads in all districts.

The construction of foothpaths in the townships of Rose Hill and Beau Bassin was continued, and also the construction of the road from Chamarel to Choisy to link the districts of Black River and Savanne.

The total mileage of roads was about 716 miles of which 329 are asphalted.

There were 8,090 motor vehicles in use in the Island in 1953 compared with 3,130 in 1940 classified as:—

	1940	*1953*
Private cars	2,031	4,962
Lorries	402	1,530
Taxi cars	338	915
Buses	137	219
Motor Cycles	222	364
Tractors	—	100

In addition there were 340 Government owned vehicles of all types.

The annual licence duties payable in respect of motor vehicles are as follows:—

	Rs
(*a*) Motor Cycles	6 per H.P.
(*b*) Private cars	8 per H.P.
(*c*) (i) Taxi cars not exceeding 10 H.P.	108
(ii) For every additional H.P.	8 per H.P.
(*d*) (i) Motor buses not more than 10 H.P. and having a seating capacity for not more than 20 passengers	512
(ii) for every additional H.P.	8 per H.P.
(*e*) (i) Motor lorries not exceeding 10 H.P. ...	200
(ii) for every additional H.P.	8 per H.P.
(iii) per metric ton of maximum gross weight or fraction thereof	40

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Public service and goods vehicles are licensed quarterly at proportional rates. Licence duty in respect of motor cycle and private cars may be effected quarterly or half quarterly at the owner's option.

Visitors' licences, at the following rates, are payable in respect of private owned motor cars and motor cycles belonging to persons on temporary visits to the Colony not exceeding 3 months:—

Private cars	... Rs	10 per month irrespective of Horse Power
Motor Cycles	... Rs	2 ,, ,, ,,

No licence fee is charged on a privately owned car or motor cycle when the owner is in the Colony for a short stay not exceeding one week.

River and Lake Transport

The rivers of the island are not navigable except at a short distance from the sea. There is also no navigable lake.

Air

There is only one airport in Mauritius. It is situated at Plaisance, on the South East of the island about three miles from the coast and is run by the Colonial Government. The meteorological services are under the control of the Director of the Observatory, who is responsible for providing forecasts and all other meteorological information required. There are meteorological observers stationed at the Airport. Air France run a scheduled "Constellation" service twice weekly between Paris and Mauritius through Cairo, Nairobi, Madagascar and Reunion. Quantas Empire Airways have a scheduled "Constellation" service between Sydney and Johannesburg via Melbourne, Perth, Cocos Island and Mauritius. This letter service is run, for the present, once each way every fortnight but it is planned to increase the frequency. No aircraft is based in Mauritius and no internal services exist. During the course of the year a number of new items of W/T and R/T equipment, including a 3KW Beacon, was received and installed at the Airport.

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The following is a summary of total aircraft movements during 1953:—

Type of Movement	*Number of Movements*		
	Landings	*Take Offs*	*Total*
Schedule services	153	153	306
Charter	—	—	—
Other commercial		—	—
Test traning	—	—	—
Private	—	—	—
Military British and Foreign ...	8	8	16
Other non-commercial	1	1	2
All movements	162	162	324
Diverted movements (included in the above figures)	—	—	—

The number of incoming and outgoing passengers during 1953 was 5,882 as against 4,979 in 1952. Commercial freight set down and picked up amounted to 77,386 kilogs (excluding baggage and mail 17,697 kilogs) and 63,477 kilogs (excluding baggage and mail 6,439 kilogs) respectively. Loads in transit on the same aircraft were:—

Passengers 1,220 ;

Commercial Freight 4,769 kilogs.

Posts and Telecommunications

The Posts and Telegraphs department is responsible for the postal and telegraph services and operates the Post Office Savings Bank. It also acts as Agents for a number of other departments in collecting revenue and making payments. The Money Order service is available to all parts of the world, and the British Postal Order service to most Commonwealth territories.

The main Post Office is at Port Louis and there are 34 other Post Offices and 45 Postal Agencies throughout Mauritius. There is also a Post Office in the Island of Rodrigues. All classes of postal and telegraph business are carried out.

Air mail connection with all parts of the world is maintained by Air France service, with five flights fortnightly between Mauritius and Europe, four via Nairobi and Cairo and one via Livingstone and West Africa. Quantas Empire Airways operates a fortnightly service between Australia and South Africa with a call at Mauritius in each direction. Air mail postage rates are charged on weight units of 5 grammes. The air mail postage rate to Europe and to India and Pakistan, the principal destinations for air mail correspondence, is 60 cents for 5 grammes.

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The number of postal items handled during 1953 was as follows:—

Air mail	3,469,040
Overseas surface mail	1,320,559
Inland mail	3,453,061

The Government operates a ship to shore radio station which communicates with ships within a radius varying between 600 and 1,200 miles of Mauritius according to atmospheric conditions. The station handled 14,562 radiotelegrams during 1953 as compared with 14,853 during 1952. About 90 per cent of the traffic is inward and meteorological radiotelegrams constitute about 58 per cent of the business.

Mauritius is linked to the rest of the world by cables and by radio installations which are operated and maintained by Cable and Wireless Limited. The Company has an office, and a Cable station and a Radio station at Port Louis, and a Cable station and an emergency radio installation on the Island of Rodrigues. The greater part of the foreign telegraph traffic of the Colony concerns Port Louis, and these telegrams are accepted and delivered by Cable and Wireless Ltd. Foreign Telegrams for or from other parts of the Island are transmitted over land lines operated by the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

There are 210 miles of inland telegraph lines and the number of inland telegrams handled during 1953 was 18,027 as compared with 20,897 during 1952.

The telephone system of Mauritius is operated and maintained by the Electricity and Telephones Department.

During the year 254 new subscribers were connected to the public telephone system. In order to meet demands for new services, extension equipment is being installed at four of the main telephone exchanges and additional underground cables for subscribers services are being laid in the various exchange areas. At the close of the year there were 4,250 exchange lines in service.

At 31st December, 1953, there were 10,500 miles of telephone wires and 5,881 telephone stations, an increase of 356 stations as as compared with the figure at 31st December, 1952. There are 12 Exchanges throughout the Island, and the number of effective telephone calls originated during 1953 was 5,604,461 as compared with 5,145,718 for 1952.

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Chapter 12—Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

Newspapers and Periodicals

The following newspapers and periodicals were published in the Colony in 1953 :—

Name	*Proprietors or Publishers*	*Editor*	*Language*	*Remarks*
Daily :—				
Le Cernéen	Le Cernéen Company Ltd ...	Hervé de Sornay	French and English	—
Le Mauricien	The Hon. Raoul Rivet, C.M.G., M.B.E., Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, Officier d'Académie.	The Hon. Gabriel Martial, O.B.E.	French and English	—
Advance	The Mauritius Free Press Service Company Ltd.	The Hon. Aunauth Beejadhur	French and English	—
L'Après-Midi	Gaston Pierre	Gaston Pierre	French and English	—
The New Era ... —	Ww. H. K. Naudeer ...	Ww. H. K. Naudeer ...	English	Processed.
Chinese Commercial Paper	Fat Kien Lamvoaishun ...	Tang Kwan Hoi	Chinese	—
Chinese Daily News ...	Li-Pak-U	Li-Pak-U	Chinese	—
China Times	Lew Nee Chow	James Chong	Chinese	—
Weekly :—				
Janata	The Mauritius Free Press Service	Pandit L. Badree	Hindi	—
Aryoday	Stadhanand Printing ...	Pandit Atmaram	English and Hindi	—
Le Travailliste	Service Printing	Wilfrid L'Etang	French	—
La Vie Catholique ...	L'Union Catholique... ...	Editorial Board presided over by Mr. Edwin de Robillard	French	Religious and social
Government Gazette of the Colony of Mauritius	Mauritius Government ...	The Government Printer...	English	Official.

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MONTHLY :—				
Revue de Marie	Marie Péril	Marie Péril	French	Roman Catholic Religious.
Maurice Sports	Mauritius Sports Association	Roland Noel	English and French	—
BI-MONTHLY :—				
La Revue rétrospective de l'Ile Maurice	Noel Régnard	Noel Régnard	French	Historical Miscellaneous.
Légionnaires	Légion de Marie	Jean de Robillard... ...	French	Roman Catholic religious.
L'Essor	Cercle Littéraire de Port Louis	Editorial Board	French	Literary.
Revue Agricole de l'Ile Maurice	La Société des Chimistes de l'Ile Maurice	Alfred North-Coombes ...	French and English	Sugar Industry and Agricultural Seience
QUARTERLY :—				
La Revue Artistique ...	J. I. Tranquille	J. I. Tranquille	French and English	Literary.
Diocesian Quarterly Magazine	Bishop of Mauritius	Bishop of Mauritius ...	French and English	Church of England.
Spiritus	Saint Esprit College ...	Rev. A. Meanan	French and English	Literary.
The Chinese Students Association Quarterly	Chinese Students Association	Cheung Kai Kai	English	Literary.
Sapientia	Modern Printing	D. François	French and English	—
Indian Cultural Review ...	Indian Cultural Association	K. Hazareesingh	English	Literary.
Amaranth	Almadinah Press	D. Conhyea and A. Hossenbux	English and French	—
EVERY TWO MONTHS :—				
The Breeders' News ...	Breeders' Club	Herve de Sornay	French and English	Livestock, farming etc., read mostly by members.
ANNUAL :—				
Mauritius Institute Bulletin	Mauritius Institute	The Board of Directors of the Mauritius Institute and Public Museum	French and English	Scientific papers on flora and fauna of Mascarenes.

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Broadcasting

1. Prior to the Second World War, broadcasting in Mauritius was operated by a private commercial concern. During the war there were three stations in the Island, all partially or wholly controlled by Government and in 1944, Government established the Mauritius Broadcasting Service. No private broadcasting stations have been licensed and commercial advertising is not permitted in the Government Service.

2. The Establishment comprises 27 permanent and 12 fee-basis employees.

3. The M.B.S. owns at present a 1½ K.w. Shortwave and a 5 k.w. Medium wave transmitter broadcasting on 19m 88 and 220m respectively, both of which are located at Forest Side in the District of Plaines Wilhems in a building which also houses the studios, the news service organisation and the administrative section.

4. The M.B.S. goes over the air for an average of 56½ hours a week in four daily transmissions in the course of which English, French, Hindustani and two Chinese dialects are spoken. It also broadcast token programmes in Tamil, Hindi, Urdu, Gujerati and Swahili.

5. Owing to the lack of local professional artistes, the bulk of the programmes are made up of recorded music and of transcription programmes from the British Broadcasting Corporation and the Radio-diffusion and Television Française, but the evening transmissions include a fair proportion of " live " items. Five news bulletins covering a total of one hour are broadcast daily.

6. The Education Department has made a promising start towards regular broadcasts to Schools, and at present 5 weekly programmes of 15 minutes duration and mostly prepared locally are broadcast.

7. The Globe Reuter News Service is run by the M.B.S. which distributes daily 115 duplicated copies of World news to the local press, to Government Departments and to the Military Authorities.

8. On 31st December, 1953, there were 15,837 radio sets in the Island, 2,790 of which had been licensed during the year as compared to 2,276 in 1952. The Service was practically self-

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supporting in 1953 as the revenue derived from licences for the financial year ending 30th June, 1953, amounted to Rs 183,840 as compared to a total recurrent expenditure of Rs 193,388 for the same period.

9. In 1950 a Broadcasting Engineer from Northern Rhodesia prepared a scheme for the technical development of the M.B.S. which it will be the main task of the Senior Broadcasing Engineer recruited from the B.B.C. who took up his appointment in March, 1953, on a three year contract, to help in implementing.

In September Mr. W. A. Roberts, Colonial Office Broadcasting Advisory Engineer, spent a week in the Colony and produced a report which brought the scheme up to date.

10. Capital expenditure of the order of Rs 721,300 or £54,100 will be required to implement fully the final recommendations, which include the erection of new and separate studio and transmitter buildings and the purchase of a new short-wave transmitter and of other equipment. At the end of the year, these recommendations were still being examined by Government.

Films

No films are produced in Mauritius for commercial distribution.

The Visual Education Branch of the Education Department makes 16mm films featuring local events of general interest for showing in schools by the Mobile Cinema Unit of the Department and in rural areas by the two Mobile Cinema Units of the Public Relations Office. Some of these 16mm films were welcomed by the cinema companies for inclusion in their programme. Towards the end of the year a 16mm documentary colour film on the Mauritius dependencies was in the course of preparation.

The four cinema companies control between them a total of 36 cinemas. Port Louis is served by four commercial cinemas, there is an average of two cinemas in the main urban centres, and there are cinemas in the most important villages.

The British, French and American Film companies are not represented in Mauritius.

Except for British News reels which are issued on a hire basis by the Public Relations Office the distribution of commercial films to companies is effected by the cinema companies themselves. The films shown are almost exclusively French (or French speaking) and Indian.

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Information Services

The Public Relations Office keeps the public informed of Government activities through the Press, the Broadcasting Service, the Mobile Cinema Units and by personal interview.

Close contract is maintained with the Press as a result of frequent visits to the Office by journalists and telephone inquiries. Every endeavour is made to help the Press by putting at its disposal any information which can be released. To this end close liaison exists with Heads of Departments. Press Conferences provide journalists with the opportunity of meeting Heads of Departments and visitors of note. A representative selection of newspapers, periodicals and ebenoids is made available to journalists. The Press reciprocates by its readiness to publish material issued by the Public Relations Office and claims payment for about one third of press communiques. A selection of press releases and press notices is sent every day to the Mauritius Broadcasting Service for broadcasting.

The distribution of books, pamphlets, periodicals, photographs and publicity material to public libraries, schools and Village Councils is one of the chief routine activities of the Office.

During the year the Office helped the Mauritius Archives and the Mauritius Institute in the organisation of an exhibition to commemorate the bi-centenary of the death of Mahé de Labourdonnais and contributed to the Means to Learning Exhibition staged by the British Council.

The activities of the office in connection with the Coronation included the publication of articles in the local Press, the display of photographs in schools and in public places and the showing of films tracing the history of the Coronation ritual. During the month preceding the Coronation 103 showings of the Coronation films were given all over the island by the two Mobile Cinema Units.

All possible assistance was granted to visitors from United Kingdom and other countries. It is also the responsibility of the Public Relations Office to spread knowledge about Mauritius in the United Kingdom and other countries by sending to the Overseas Press articles and photographs covering local events or featuring aspects of the economic life of the country.

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The Office contributed to exhibitions held in Cairo and in Texas by the British Consulates on the occasion of the Coronation by the presence of photographic sets illustrating life in Mauritius.

On the retirement on the 1st January, 1953, of the Public Relations Officer, the Office was reorganised. The post of Public Relations Officer was abolished and replaced by one of Information Officer. One of the two posts of Publicity Officer left vacant by the promotion of the holder of the post to Information Officer was suppressed.

The staff of the Public Relations Office is now composed of an Information Officer, one Publicity Officer, one clerk belonging to the Government General Clerical Service, two typists, two distribution clerks and two messengers. The staff of the Mobile Cinema Units consists of two commentators, two operators and two motor van drivers.

Chapter 13—Local Forces

The Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force

The Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force was created in 1949. Its actual strength on 31st December, 1953, was 33 enrolled ratings and 8 Probationary New Entries. The Force was under the command of a retired Commander, Royal Navy, assisted by part-time locally Commissioned officers and a permanent Chief Petty Officer (Royal Navy, retired) as Instructor.

Applications for entry into the Force continue to be numerous, and Selection Boards are held at quarterly intervals to choose the most suitable candidates for enrolment. Despite the care taken in selection, wastage in the Force, both among Probationary New Entries and among the fully-enrolled ratings, remains high. To a small extent this wastage is accounted for through circumstances beyond the control of the individual rating, which prevent regular attendance at drill but were not apparent at the time of their enrolment.

Voluntary drills have been held between 4.30 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Attendance has been on the whole satisfactory. Practical sea training in the M.N.V.F. vessels *Sambur and* " MFV.189 " has been carried out whenever possible. As few ratings were able to obtain leave to carry out such training during normal working hours, this important practical training is of necessity very limited in scope.

Between 15th October and 10th November the six seamen ratings of the ten paid permanent ratings in the Force were

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embarked in H.M.S. *Loch Quoich* during the tour of the Dependencies by His Excellency the Governor. This, the first opportunity for practical experience and training on board one of H.M. Ships, proved to be of very great value.

The Annual 14-days' Continuous Training was held as usual at Cannoniers Point between 19th October and 1st November.

Lieutenant G. Bond, R.N.V.R., and Leading Signalman A. Bayjoo, the senior rating in the Force, represented the Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force in the Colonial Military Contingent in the Coronation procession in London on 2nd June, and both were present on board H.M.S. *Adamant* at the Coronation Naval Review at Spithead on 15th June.

The Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force provided an armed platoon of one officer and 30 ratings at the Coronation Day parade at Champ de Mars, Port Louis, on 2nd June, and 32 ratings gave a demonstration of " Marching Manoeuvres " in the Military Tattoo held at Line Barracks, Port Louis, on 8th July.

H.M.S. *Newfoundland* flagship of the East Indies Squadron, visited Mauritius between 6th and 13th July, and on 8th July Admiral Sir William R. Slayter, K.C.B., D.S.O., D.S.C,, inspected the M.N.V.F. at M.N.V.F. Headquarters, Artillery Square, Port Louis, when all members of the Force were present. *Sambur* and " MFV189 " were also inspected by officers of the C-in-C's staff.

A Second Instructor, formerly a Petty Officer in the Royal Navy joined the Force in June as a specialist in wireless telegraphy.

The Army

During the year there were 1,840 recruit enlistments and 1,213 re-enlistments, into the Royal Pioneer Corps bringing the total to 3,053. In the same period there were 2,058 discharges and 13 deaths 11 overseas and 2 in Mauritius.

4 Officers and 150 other ranks of the RPC took part in the Coronation parade held at the Champ de Mars race course on 2nd June in honour of the Coronation of Her Majesty. The RPC Depot also took part in the Coronation Tattoo held in July.

On the occasion of the visit of H.M.S. *Newfoundland* the RPC provided the Guard of Honour, consisting of 2 Officers and 50 Other ranks.

On the 5th October the RPC provided the Guard of Honour on the occasion of the departure of the Deputy Commander-in-Chief East Africa,

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Chapter 14—General

Cultural and Scientific Organisations

The Mauritius Institute

The project for the foundation of an Institute in Mauritius took shape in 1880 when an ordinance was passed, with the active support of the Governor, Sir George Bowen, " to establish and incorporate a Public Institute: a public museum and a public library, for the purpose of promoting the general study and cultivation of the various branches and departments of arts, science, literature and philosophy, and for the instruction and recreation of the people."

The first stone was laid by Sir George Bowen on the 23rd November, 1880 and the Natural History collections, bequeathed to the Colony by Julien Desjardins, were transferred to the new building, from the old Royal College, in 1885. The public library was opened in 1903, following the munificent bequest of Sir Virgile Naz's library which formed the nucleus of the present collections.

To-day, the Mauritius Institute comprises a Public Library, a Natural History Museum, a Maritime and Historical Museum, and a small Art Gallery ; in addition the following scientific and literary Societies are incorporated with the Institute: The Royal Society of Arts and Sciences, the *Société de Technologie Agricole et Sucrière de Maurice,* the *Société Médicale,* the *Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens* and the Indian Cultural Association.

The administration of the Institute is assisted by a Board of Directors, appointed annually by the Governor, including four members appointed on the recommendation of the incorporated societies. A Library Committee and a Museum Committee are set up each year to manage the affairs of the Library and Museum respectively.

The Public Library

The stock comprises more than 40,000 volumes almost equally divided between French and English. The Library has a large valuable collection of Mauritiana and a reference section on the natural history of the Mascarene Islands and neighbouring regions. There is also a scientific research and reference section with which is incorporated the Library of the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius. It is indispensable for the study and

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research on the museum collections and it is intended to provide a working basis for the student or research worker in regional biology, geology and natural history. During the year under review, a Quick Reference Section of the Library was added which though small, proved to be very popular. More than seventy-five periodicals are received annually.

Considerable additional floor space has now been made available through important alterations to the structure of two rooms of the library and this has rendered possible the extension and development of the modern reference library which was created out of a grant of Rs 50,000 from Development and Welfare Funds. The British Council gave valuable support to the library by gifts of reference books and by subscriptions to scientific and technical publications.

The Library is free to readers but a deposit of Rs 10 is required from borrowers.

The Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum is regional in character and every effort is being made to assemble representative material of the fauna, flora and geology of Mauritius and of the two other Mascarene Islands (Réunion and Rodrigues). The exhibited sections are being re-arranged on educational and ecological basis and a reserve collection for research workers is being gradually built up. The richness and variety of marine life in the neighbouring seas together with the very interesting remnants of the indigenous land fauna and flora present excellent opportunities for research in pure and economic biology. A scientific publication " The Mauritius Institute Bulletin " is devoted to the publication of the original papers on the natural history of the region. The issue is approximately annual.

In the avian section there are three skeletons of the Dodo, one of the Solitaire from Rodrigues, and one of the flightless Red Hen *(Aphanapleryx)* as well as a complete collection of the endemic birds of Mauritius, including the extinct Dutch Pigeon *(Alectroenas nitidissima)*.

A special case is devoted to the fauna of Round Island, a small islet 12 miles North of Mauritius.

There are now on view advanced collections of *Crustacea, Echinodermata* and *Mollusca* both land and marine. A collection of tropical fish, many painted in their natural colours is also noteworthy.

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The botanical section includes a herbarium of over 4,000 sheets of specimens from Mauritius, Rodrigues and some of the small Indian Ocean Islands. Native and exotic timber specimens are displayed and a special section is devoted to diseases and pests of economic plants.

Historical Museum

A subsidiary Museum related to local events has been opened in an Old French house at Mahebourg, where the two wounded commanders of the British and French squadrons were received during the naval battle of Grand Port in August 1810. The museum is visited by over 5,000 persons annually, including many visitors from overseas ; specially conducted tours for societies, schools and other interested bodies are arranged.

The building is a two-storied house, consisting of five large rooms in which the exhibits have been displayed. In the two front rooms of the ground floor are found a number of objects recovered by Mr. H. C. M. Austen, C.B.E., in January 1934, from the wreck of one of the English frigates the *Magicienne,* which sank in the Bay of Mahébourg during the Grand Port Battle.

Among the objects are several 12-pounder guns, 24-pounder caronades, cannon balls, grape-shot, rudder braces in solid copper, pieces of sailor's uniform with buttons still attached, copper coins, old bottles and various smaller relics. Part of the hulk of the *Magicienne,* showing the wooden structure, the copper sheating and some of the draught plates in Roman figures is exhibited. The details of the construction of the frigate and of another English frigate also lost in the batle, the *Sirius,* can be seen on plans supplied by the Admiralty. Reproductions of old prints and engravings show some phases of the engagement and the leading personalities connected with it. A noteworthy exhibit is a large relief may (9″: 1 mile) of the bay of Grand Port with small model ships illustrating the site of the battle.

The important activities of the French privateers, who used the *Ile de France* as a base at the beginning of the 19th Century, are illustrated by some exhibits from the East Indiaman " Kent." This ship was captured by Robert Surcouf, the *Roi des Corsaires,* in the Bay of Bengal in October 1800 and the following objects related to the event have been preserved: the desk of the Commander of the " Kent " (Captain Rivington), his sword, dagger and telescope, together with Surcouf's pistol and the sword

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of Captain Drieux who led the boarding party from the French ship *La Confiance*. The log-book of the " Kent," which belongs to a private collector, has also been loaned to the Museum. A large portrait of Surcouf is hung nearby.

The capture of the island by the British at the beginning of December 1810 is illustrated by a series of eight coloured prints by R. Temple. An oil painting of the last French Governor, General Decaen, as well as a large bowl which belonged to him are also to be seen.

A more recent odyssey of the sea which ended in Mauritius is commemorated by maps and objects from the British steamer, the *Trevassa,* which foundered between Australia and Mauritius, at 1,610 miles from the latter, in June 1923. The crew, numbering 44, abandoned the ship in two life-boats one of which reached Rodrigues and the other Mauritius after 25 days, eight lives being lost during the voyage.

In the same section of the museum are exhibited two flags presented to Mauritius by the officers and ship's company of H.M.S. *Mauritius :* (1) an Italian flag captured by the British Regiment, the Green Howards, at Melilli, Sicily, in July 1943, when fire support was provided by H.M.S. *Mauritius* for the final assault of the stronghold ; (2) the battle ensign flown by the same cruiser during the Sicilian campaign.

Another portion of the room is devoted to the history of transport in Mauritius, exemplified, for the time being, by two *palanquins* and a *chaise à porteurs,* which were in use before the era of roads and wheeled traffic.

The stairs leading to the first floor open into a long hall at the end of which have been grouped some pieces of furniture which belonged tto the famous French Governor of the island, Mahé de Labourdonnais (1699–1753): a bed, an arm-chair and a glazed armoir. In this cupboard have been placed a drinking glass, which also belonged to Labourdonnais, and examples of " willow " patterned china imported into Mauritius by the French East India Company at the same period. The recess devoted to these exhibits is decorated with a reproduction of a seventeenth century Gobelins tapestry and a portrait of Mahé de Labourdonnais. On the walls of this room are displayed a series of old engravings related to *Bernardin de Saint Pierre's* celebrated novel " Paul and Virginia," a legend of the time of Mahé de Labourdonnais.

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Adjoining the Labourdonnais exhibits is a special room in which are displayed, in their proper sequence, a valuable collection of maps, charts, engravings and water-colours, many original, which serve to introduce the visitor to the various periods of the history of Mauritius from its discovery to the present time. Worthy of special mention in this section are: a portulan map published at Amsterdam in 1595, probably the most accurate map of the region available at the time of the first Dutch visit to Mauritius in 1590 ; an English map of Mauritius by Mount and Page published in 1745, derived from a Dutch source ; Abbé de la Caille's map (1753) the first accurate map of the Island ; Bellin's map of 1763, based in the foregoing ; two maps by the Creole hydrographer, Lislet Geoffroy, published by the English Admiralty in 1813 and 1814. Modern maps are also shown including the fine one-inch map by Descubes (1880) which is of great practical interest as it indicates the site of over a thousand conceded lands.

Among the series of lithographs and water-colours recording the life, scenery and customs of different periods, the following may be specially noted: six water-colours by Kelsey (early eighteen forties), coloured prints by Thuillier, coloured lithographs by Bradshaw and Rider (1831–32), water-colours by Leroy (eighteen sixties), and a water-colour panoramic view of Mauritius, sketched from the Port Louis harbour by Augustus Earle who was on board the Beagle when Charles Darwin visited Mauritius in 1836.

A small exhibit is devoted to the history of the famous " Post Office " stamp of Mauritius (1847) and is illustrated by reprints of the stamp.

Art Gallery

An Art Gallery is attached to the Port Louis Museum, consisting of a collection of original paintings including works by Ziem, Le Sidaner, Harpignies, and a small section devoted to the work of local artists.

Research

The richness and variety of marine life in the sourrounding seas, together with the very interesting remnants of the indigenous land fauna and flora, present excellent opportunities for research in pure economic and marine biology, and the collections of the museum form a valuable basis for investigations in these fields.

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In recent years research work, in conjunction with institutions and workers overseas, has continued to develop, mainly on marine and land *mollusca, crustaceans,* insects and reptiles. Investigations on the systematics and ecology of the vegetation of Mauritius are in progress.

Societies incorporated with the Mauritius Institute

(1) *The Royal Society of Art and Sciences of Mauritius.* This Society which was founded in 1829 under the title of *Société d'Histoire Naturelle* was honured in 1847 by permission from Queen Victoria to add the word " Royal " to its title. Its activities extend to most branches of natural history ; science and art lectures are delivered by its members and also by visitors of mark under its auspices. A catalogue of the library, which contains many rare and valuable books on natural history, was published in 1945. Annual proceedings are published containing papers read before the Society.

(2) *Société Médicale de L'Ile Maurice.* The Society was founded in 1880 and includes among its members most of the medical practitioners of the Colony.

(3) *Société de Technologie Agricole et Sucrière de Maurice.* The Society is a technical body studying all questions relating to the growth of sugarcane and the manufacture of cane sugar. The papers and proceedings of the Society are published in the bi-monthly *Revue Agricole.*

(4) *Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens.* Founded in 1938 with the object of encouraging the publication of literary works, of establishing contacts with similar institutions overseas, and of maintaining unity among Mauritian writers. This Society was incorporated with the Institute in 1949.

(5) *The Indian Cultural Association.* Founded in April 1936, the object of promoting Indian culture in Mauritius and of fostering spiritual ties with India. It publishes a quarterly journal called " The Indian Cultural Review " and among its contributors are some of the foremost poets and writers of the island. This Society was incorporated with the Institute in 1950.

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The Mauritius Archives

The Mauritius Archives Office is not only one of the oldest departments of this colony, dating from the early years of the French settlement, but it is also one of the oldest archive centres of the Southern Hemisphere, ranking only after the Cape and Réunion repositories.

Under French rule the Office was a branch of the *Conseil Supérieur* and received special attention from the authorities. An early instance of the interest of the French Government in colonial archives is provided by the edict of 1770, which set up a central *Dépôt des Chartes des Colonies* at Versailles and enacted regulations for their better preservation. Another important measure was the establishment in Mauitius in 1808 of a *Dépôt des Cartes de la Marine* which, for a long time, supplied sailors and travellers in the South Indian Ocean with valuable information.

At the time of the land fighting which led to the capitulation of the Island by the French, the local archives were removed from Port Louis to a safer place of custody in Plaines Wilhems and thus escaped damage. In 1815, after the final cession of Mauritius to England, they were handed over to the British Authorities in an almost complete state, comparatively few of the records being retained by the French Government.

From 1922 until the end of 1949 the Archives came under the supervision of the Registrar General's Department. On the 1st January, 1950, the Archives became an independent organisation attached to the Central Administration.

The Archives Office to-day is divided into the following sections:—

(a) *Administrative section* including two distinct record groups:—

(i) those of the old French administration dating from 1721, of which the most valuable are those of the republican Colonial Assemblies (1790–1803) and those relative to naval history ;

(ii) those of the British administration from 1810 to 1860 ; these include the Secretariat files and the records of a few departments. It is proposed to take over all departmental records down to 1902, to which date public access to official records was extended recently by the Secretary of State, but this cannot be done until an extension of accommodation is provided.

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(b) *Domainial or Land section* including the archives of the former Land Court (1767–1832), applications for grants of land, title-deeds of concessions and their grants of land, shooting and fishing leases, documents concerning Crown lands, mountain reserves, canals and rivers, notarial deeds, and memoranda of survey drawn up by land-surveyors. The last two are deposited under ordinances dating from the 18th century. Most of the records in this section date from the early years of the French settlement in Mauritius.

(c) *Judicial section* including:—

(i) records of the old French courts of which there are quite a number ;

(ii) those of the British courts which replaced them after 1810. These records are of great interest to the lawyer and the student of history.

(d) *Civil Status section* including duplicate civil status registers for Port Louis, from 1721 onwards, and for the rural districts, from 1721 to 1830. The original registers for Port Louis are kept in the Central Civil Status Office and those for the rural districts, of later date than 1830, in the offices of the district Magistrates. This section also includes documents relative to slaves, previous to the abolition of slavery, and census returns.

(e) *Printed records section* including five classes of printed matter:—

(i) government publications ;

(ii) copies of all books and periodicals printed in Mauritius, regularly deposited in the Archives Office since 1893 ;

(iii) files of local newspapers from 1837 onwards ;

(iv) a collection of early Mauritian imprints issued betwen 1768 and 1810 ;

(v) a small reference library which is as yet in the growing stage. The set of government publications is probably the most important of its kind in Mauritius ; so is the collection of newspapers. The collection of early imprints, which was started quite recently, is unique and of great import from the historical as well as from the bibliographical point of view.

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(f) Cartographic section, incuding maps, plans and diagrams either deposited under existing ordinances or transferred from the Survey Office, the Military Department and other departments. Of the old *Dépôts des Cartes de la Marine* little, unfortunately, is left.

(g) Photographic section, a recent addition, which includes a modern photostat equipment used for:—

(i) making replicas of documents which are beyond repair to ensure permanent preservation ;

(ii) making copies for official use by other departments ;

(iii) supplying copies to the public ;

(iv) building up a collection of pictorial records ;

(v) running an exchange service with archival centres abroad.

The publications of the Archives Office include a quarterly list of books and periodicals deposited under law, an annual report, and publications subsidized by the *Archives Publication Fund* established in 1951. The first publication of the Committee of Management of this Fund is an *Atlas-Souvenir* issued in March 1953 to commemorate the first triangulation of Mauritius in 1753 by Abbé de la Caille. The second publication includes 38 documents relative to trade relations between Mauritius and the United States from 1786 to 1810 and will be issued in April 1954 under the title of *Early American trade with Mauritius.*

The bibliographical survey of *Mauritiana* started in 1951 has made good progress. The object of this survey is to trace and record material relative to Mauritius arranged under the following groups:—

A. Early imprints and private publications, from 1768 ;

B. Periodicals, newspapers and serials, from 1773 ;

C. Government publications, from 1810 ;

D. Foreign publications, from 1601 ;

E. Manuscripts and archive records, from c. 1500 ;

F. Maps and charts, from c. 1500.

The initial plan of publishing the results of the survey in six instalments corresponding to each group has been revised and it is now proposed to embody them in a one-volume publication due to come out in 1955.

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An exhibition of documents was held at Government House from 10 to 15 November, 1953, to commemorate the bi-centenary of the death (10 November, 1753) of Mahé de Labourdonnais, Governor of Mauritius and Réunion from 1735 to 1746. It included photocopies of 48 select documents illustrative of various aspects of Labourdonnais' administration and private life, supplied mainly by the Mauritius Archives, the Mauritius Institute, the Réunion Archives and the *Archive National,* Paris.

The British Council

The promotion of cultural relations with other countries, says the Bitish Council report for the year ended 31st of March, 1951, " is now recognised, throughout the World, as a normal function of the State, and the British Council is the contribution of the United Kingdom to a complex system of international relationships." The expression ' cultural relations ' is later defined in the same report as, " literature and arts, pure and applied science, systems of Government and local administration, medicine and nursing, all the links between people and institutions which a common profession or occupation give, the study of languages and information on all those things that together make a national " way of life "." In the Colonies the Council endeavours, in addition to the projection of the British way of life, to assist in social and cultural development and to promote understanding between people of different origins.

The British Council in Mauritius continued its activities to stimulate interest along these lines. Throughout 1953, the Representative carried out a programme of filmshows, talks for the secondary schools, study groups, library work, presentation of books, assistance to cultural societies and so on. The Council's public open air filmshows in Port Louis, Mahebourg, Rivière des Anguilles, Rose Belle and other places continued to attract crowds of up to 5,000. A special feature of the film work during the year was the screening of technical films for Government railway employees and the Police Training School and on road safety and libraries. The Representative organised several study groups based on the Council's study boxes which are receiving growing recognition as a useful educational aid.

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The Council's Lending Library at the Town Hall, Rose Hill, and the Reference Library at the Council Centre, Rose Hill, expanded in membership and in book stocks throughout the year. In the rural areas the Book Box Scheme again proved its utility where regular library services are not available. Books were presented to school libraries throughout the Colony. There was a further extension of presentations of periodicals to the villages.

An Introductory Course for students leaving Mauritius for the United Kingdom was held at the Council Centre in May. Though the reception of students in London was hampered by the French railway strikes, relatively few students were not met by British Council officials and accommodated. A bursary for the study of trade union organisation was awarded in January to a trade union President. Several Mauritian visitors to the United Kingdom were assisted by the Council in the establishment of relations with their opposite numbers.

The two outstanding features of Council work in Mauritius during 1953 were the Shakespeare Week in April and the Exhibition " Means to Learning " in November. Shakespeare Week was organised by a Committee presided over by the Council Representative and on which were represented the main cultural groups of the country. The programme included dramatic presentations, music, talks, filmshows, filmstrip talks, special broadcasts and a comprehensive exhibition prepared by the Council in Mauritius. The exhibition attracted about 5,000 visitors. The exhibition " Means to Learning " in November developed from a book and periodicals exhibition received from the Council London Headquarters into an attempt to embrace the fundamental machinery of education. The written word, the spoken word and mechanical aids were included. Amongst the 5,000 visitors during the eight days of the exhibition were the majority of the Colony's primary and secondary school teachers.

Société de l'Histoire de l'Ile Maurice

This society was founded in 1938 to foster and encourage the study of the Colony's history by collecting documents on local history, publishing historical works, and organising historical exhibitions and lectures.

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One of the principal activities of the Society has been the production of the Dictionary of Mauritian Biography, twenty-four parts of which have already appeared. These contain about one thousand biographies of persons connected with Mauritius by birth or residence.

The Society awards prizes in the schools to encourage the study of Mauritian history. It corresponds and exchanges publications with similar institutions overseas and collects material from the Archives at the Cape, The Hague, Batavia, Paris, London and Lisbon.

In 1942 a monument was erected by it to commemorate the explorer Mathew Flinders who was a prisoner for seven years in Mauritius.

In 1944 it organised a Paul and Virginie bi-centenary exhibition in the Mauritius Institute. It also erected a monument at Poudre dOr in the same year to commemorate the wreck of the ship *Saint-Géran* off the coast of Poudre d'Or in August 1744.

In 1948 the Society set up a third memorial at Grand Port on the spot where the Dutch first landed in Mauritius in 1598.

British Medical Association, Mauritius Branch

A branch of the British Medical Association was founded in 1939. Membership is granted to all medical practitioners who have qualified for registration in Mauritius, including those with French qualifications. The Branch represents the medical profession in the island. Close collaboration is maintained between Government and the profession, and the advice of the Branch has been frequently sought by Government in connection with Development and Welfare and other needs of the community. In 1950 the Mauritius Branch was consulted on the advisability of introducing a National Health Insurance Scheme and the question is now being considered.

Le Cercle Littéraire de Port Louis

The principal object of this Society is to unite all those interested in French culture and ideals. Its aim is to encourage among the Mauritian people the study and diffusion of the French language and literature, by means of annual competitions and public lectures. A review, *L'Essor,* is published by this Society

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The English Association

The weakness of Mauritius students in spoken English, especially as compared with their proficiency in written English, is a known fact and has always placed them at a disadvantage. The cause of that weakness is that few Mauritian students have the opportunity of improving their spoken English by association with English-speaking people or by hearing the language spoken by English people.

In 1945 a movement was started to create a society which would encourage and help Mauritian students who were learning English to a better knowledge of it, particularly of the spoken language, and to a fuller acquaintance with English literature and culture ; the society was, above all, to provide facilities for Mauritian students to speak English and hear it spoken by English people.

A Provisional Committee was appointed to bring the society into existence, and after several months of work the society was officially inaugurated under the name of the English Association, at a meeting held at the Rose Hill Town Hall in December 1946. His Excellency Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, K.C.M.G., who had from the beginning taken an interest in the society, honoured the meeting by his presence. The Association has since been honoured by the patronage of the Governor of Mauritius.

The object of the Association is to help young people who desire to improve their knowledge of English, and to this end it arranges film shows, dramatic performances (with the assistance of the Mauritius Dramatic Club) and broadcasts in English for school chidren ; it organizes essay writing competitions and especially annual competitions in elocution, acting and singing in English and makes the prize-winners take part in a public recital ; it promotes the formation of dramatic, debating and literary circles and in short engages in any activity likely to be of help to student of the English language and literature.

The Association is composed of some 50 members ,and its annual oral competitions are very popular.

The Association works in close co-operation with the British Council in Mauritius.

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Alliance Française

The local branch of the *Alliance Française* in Port Louis, Mauritius, was founded in 1884 with the object of fostering French culture by the introduction of French courses in schools, conducting annual examinations and organizing meetings and conferences on French literature and art.

Mauritius Dramatic Club

This club was founded in 1937. In the early years of the war it gave a number of productions from which considerable gifts were made to war charities. It has now been revived and has given several full productions in addition to numerous play-reading and occasional broadcast plays.

The Vacoas House of Debators

This association, a literary society founded in 1936, takes special interest in general educational and cultural development.

Fortnightly meetings are held for debates and plays ; occasional radio programmes are presented on the Mauritius Broadcasting Service, lectures by eminent outside personalities are delivered from time to time.

A Scholarship Fund, authorized by Government, provides for the educational needs of pupil-members taking a secondary course of studies. A Girls' Section was started in January 1952 for the welfare of girls of 12 and upwards.

Football, volleyball, table-tennis, outings, camping-out are among the recreative activities ; an athletic Sports Day is organized every year.

The Mental and Physical Culture Association

The principal aims of this Association are to encourage the study of the English language and literature, and to assist its members in obtaining facilities for enjoying sports such as tennis and football.

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The Hindu Pracharini Sabha and the Mauritius Hindi Parishad

These Societies were established with the object of promoting and encouraging the study of Hindi in Schools. Efforts are being made by the managing committees to produce a uniform curriculum and to improve the standard of teaching. Collaboration with the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan of Allahabad is maintained for conducting external examinations in Higher Hindi in Maurtius.

The Pen Club de L'Océan Indien

The Mauritius section of the "*Fédération Internationale des P.E.N. Clubs*" was founded in Mauritius in 1951. It aims at the promotion of a spirit of understanding and friendship among the writers of all sections of the community and also among those of the neighbouring islands. A number of broadcastts and conferences were given under the auspices of the Club.

The Young Men's Christian Association (Mauritius)

The Mauritius YMCA was founded in collaboration with the London Central YMCA and officially inaugurated in August, 1952 by a delegate of the World's Alliance of YMCAs.

The Association has been given the status of a Voluntary Educational Centre for Mauritius by the United Nations.

Membership is open to all irrespective of age, creed or community.

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PART III

Chapter 1—Geography and Climate

Geography

Mauritius is a small island extending over an area of approximately 720 square miles, situated in the Indian Ocean, between 19° 58′ and 20° 32′ South Latitude, and the meridians of 57° 17′ and 57° 46′ East Longitude. It is almost surrounded by a fringing coral reef. The northern part of the island is a fairly flat plain which rises gently towards the central plateau. Elsewhere the coastal plain is narrow and the ascent to the central plateau abrupt. Bordering the central plateau there are three main mountain ranges with rocky peaks, the highest of which is 2,711 feet. Apart from these ranges, there are many other isolated hills and peaks. There are numerous small rivers throughout the island, the longest being about 25 miles. Most of the rivers are short and fast-flowing owing to the steepness of the slope from the central plateau to the sea. Waterfalls are not uncommon in Mauritius and some of the larger have been harnessed to supply hydro-electric power. There are only two natural lakes on the island, Grand Bassin and Bassin Blanc. Five reservoirs supply water for domestic use, irrigation and hydro-electric purposes.

Mauritius is one of the most thickly polulated countries in the world ; its 720 square miles carry a population of 501,000, i.e., about 700 inhabitants per square mile—a staggering figure for an agricultural country. The population of the main towns is as folows:—

Port Louis	69,700
Curepipe	22,000
Quatre Bornes	17,700
Rose Hill—Beau Bassin ...	28,700

The chief industry of the island is sugar production and sugar-cane fields may be seen all over the island. From the hill tops the ground looks like an immense green lawn, regularly intersected by silver-grey ribbons of roads. Remnants of the native forests of the island cover a total area of some 15,000 acres: they are to be found in the mountainous and less accessible regions. The Forest

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Department is actively replanting with exotic tree species—principally Pines, Eucalyptus, Camphor, Juniper, ad Araucarias,—those areas where secondary scrub forest has replaced native forests which were cleared many years ago in the process of extending sugarcane cultivation. All round the coast there is a fringe of either casuarina (" filaos ") or coconut trees.

The Colony is comparatively isolated being situated in the Indian Ocean 500 miles East of Madagascar. Strategically, it is placed at the crossing of the sea routes linking Australia, India and the East Indies, with South Africa. Steamers, en route from the Far East to South Africa, call regularly at Mauritius, as do the French ships, bound for the neighbouring French colony of Réunion. During the war a modern airport was built at Plaisance, in the southern part of the island and there is a regular air service linking Mauritius with Paris and London. Survey flights in connection with a trans-ocean air service between South Africa and Australia via Mauritius were carried out in 1948, and regular flights began in 1952.

The Colony of Mauritius has a number of island dependencies in the Indian Ocean. These are, Rodrigues 350 miles to the east, Chagos Archipelago 1,180 miles north-east in the direction of Ceylon, Agalega 580 miles and Cargados Carajos 250 miles north of Mauritius.

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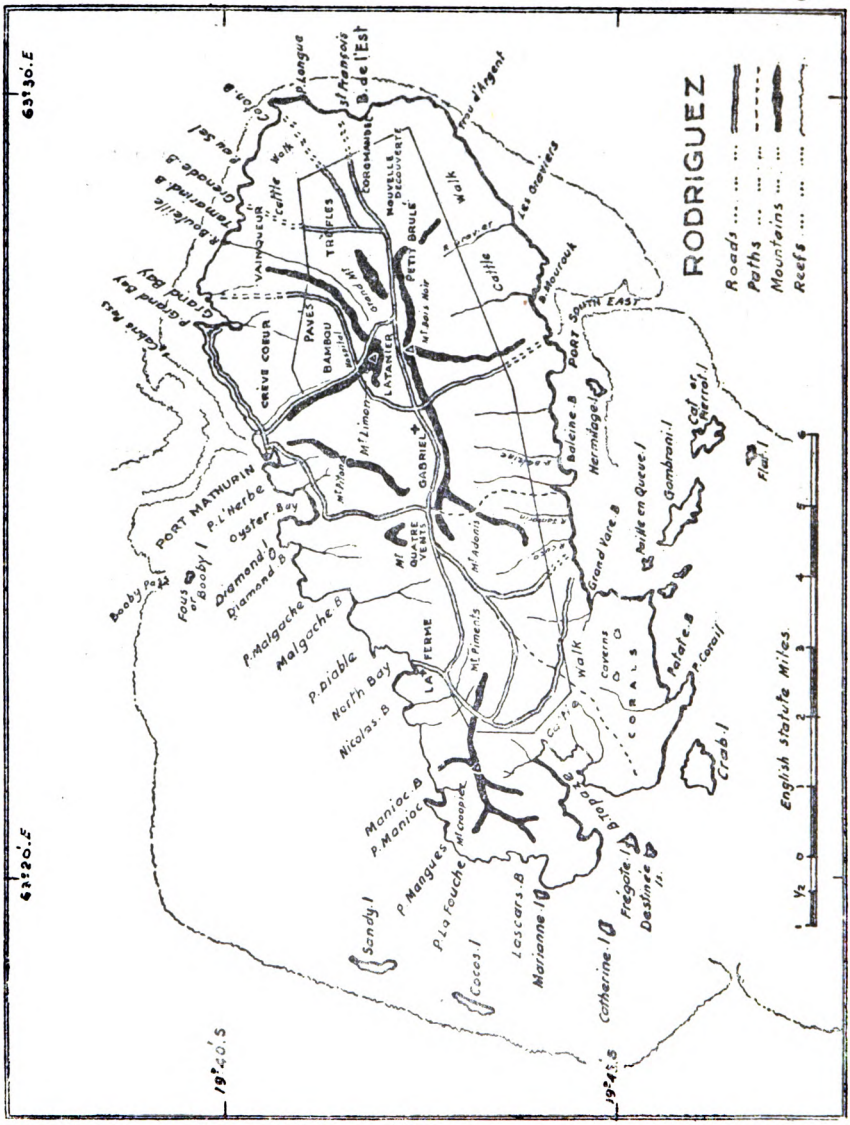
Rodrigues, the principal dependency, is a mountainous island of volcanic formation encircled by a coral reef and has a total area of about 40 square miles. It measures 9½ miles in length by 4½ miles in width and has a population of about 14,000 inhabitants mostly fishermen and small cultivators. Soil erosion in Rodrigues is causing the


RODRIGUEZ
Roads
Paths
Mountains
Reefs
English Statute Miles
63°30'E
63°20'E
19°40'S
19°41'S
PORT MATHURIN
PORT SOUTH EAST
GRAND BAY
GRAND BAY
GABRIEL
LATANIER
PAVES
BAMBOU
CREVE COEUR
TROIS FRERES
PETIT BRULE
MONTAGNE CORAIL
LA FERME
MANIOC
PLAISANCE
POINTE CANON
POINTE COROSSOL
POINTE MONTAGNE
POINTE MATELOT
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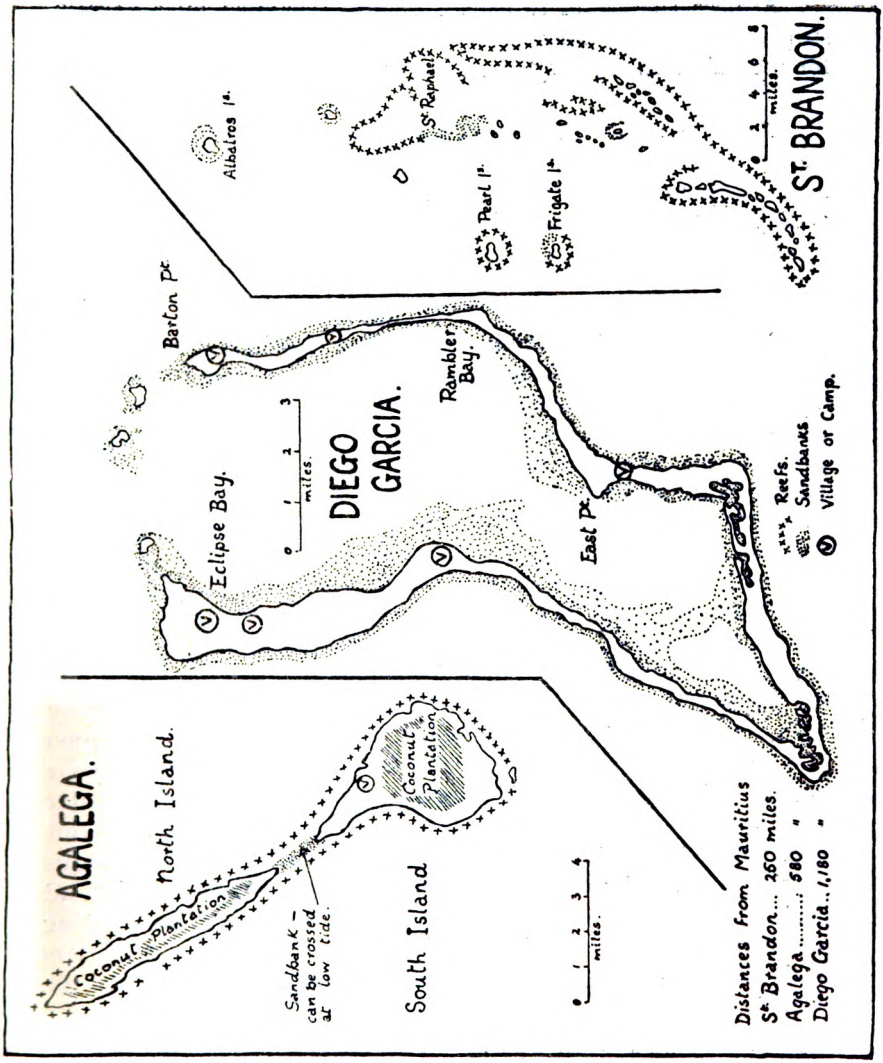

Chagos consists of five groups of coral islands, the biggest of which is Diego Garcia. The horseshoe-shaped ribbon of land lying just above sea-level, surrounds a lagoon thirteen miles long and between four and five miles wide. Diego was of strategic importance during the recent world war.

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Agalega consists of two small islands, separated by a narrow strip of sandbank. This dependency is the main source of copra for the edible oil industry of Mauritius.

The archipelago of Cargados Carajos, usually referred to by the name of the principal islet, St. Brandon, is a fishing station leased to a Mauritian Company. At present the fish taken in the waters of St. Brandon are dried and salted for export to Mauritius.

CLIMATE

Mauritius lies just within the tropics, but it is a small land mass without any large land area in its vicinity. It has, therefore, a maritime climate, tropical maritime during summer and sub-tropical in winter. This differs appreciably from the climate of a place on the same latitude on a large continent. Very high temperatures are not experienced in summer, nor particularly low ones in winter. Except in localities at or near sea-level, especially along the north-west coast and during ocasional dry spells, rainfall is sufficient to maintain a green cover of vegetation throughout the year. On the other hand, owing to the high relative humidity, there are periods in summer, particularly when there is little or no wind, when considerable physical discomfort is felt, especially at or near sea-level, even though the temperatures are not extremely high. On the central plateau, which is between 1,000 and 2,000 feet above sea-level, it is comparatively cool almost all the year round. Heavy rains fall in summer, though there is no regular rainy season. In winter, it is cold and wet on the higher parts but cool round the coast. During this period there is a general exodus to the seaside. The bathing beaches with their white coral sand and calm, safe lagoons for bathing, fishing, swimming and boating are attractive and have been favourably compared by travellers with the well-known tourist resorts of Hawaii and other Pacific Islands.

The island is in the region of tropical cyclones of the South Indian Ocean ; the official cyclone season begins in November and ends in May. Cyclones are occasionally very severe, causing widespread destruction to crops, trees and buildings, and sometimes loss of life. Fortunately, visitations of this catastrophic nature are relatively infrequent.

The following is a summary of the main climatological features.

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Seasons

The year can be divided approximately into two seasons ; summer, from November to April and winter, from May to October, though April to June, and the months September and October, can be looked upon as transitional periods. The driest period from September to November is probably the pleasantest part of the year in all parts of the island.

Rainfall

The average annual rainfall, at or near sea-level, is 50 inches or less, the minimum being about 30 inches in the western and north-western coastal areas. The amount increases steadily, with altitude, and reaches nearly 200 inches on the highest part of the central plateau, at about 2,000 feet above sea-level.

Summer rainfall produces by far the larger proportion of the total for the year and has three main sources. The first, very common in late November and in December, comes from instability showers or " convectional " rain falling in the early afternoon in calm, or nearly calm weather. The second is associated with generally cloudy weather in troughs of low pressure. The third comes from tropical cyclones which, if at a distance from the island, often give beneficial rain without destructive wind force but which cause much damage and very excessive rainfall if passing over or near to the island.

Winter rainfall is mostly of an orographic nature, produced by the lifting and cooling of the trade wind stream as it passes over the island. It is in the form of light rain or drizzle, most of which falls over the central high ground, particularly on the south-eastern side.

True droughts are rare, except near sea-level, but the very large deficiencies which occur from time to time, more often in early summer, are particularly important during the season of rapid growth of the sugarcane from December to April.

Temperatures

The mean temperature varies from 74°F, at sea-level to 67°F. at 2,000 feet, and the mean annual range is 11°F. The highest and lowest values recorded at the Observatory, Pamplemousses, at an altitude of 180 feet, are 94·8°F and 49·9°F respectively, and the minimum at 1,850 feet is 44·9°F. The mean daily range is 13·5°F.

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Humidity

The mean monthly relative humidity increases from about 70 per cent near sea-level in October and November to nearly 90 per cent at 1,850 feet in March. One hundred per cent humidity is quite frequently attained on the highest parts of the plateau and occasionally near sea-level. The lowest value recorded at the Observatory, Pamplemousses is 33 per cent. The mean daily range varies from 19 per cent in April to 31 per cent in November at 180 feet.

Sunshine

The average number of hours per day of bright sunshine is 7·8 at 180 feet and 7·0 at 1,400 feet. October to December are the months with most sunshine.

Winds

During the winter months, with only occasional interruptions due to low pressure south of Mauritius, the island experiences steady south-east to east-south-east trade winds of moderate strength. Occasionally they become fairly strong for a day or two but do not reach gale force.

In summer the trades are normally of light to moderate force from the east or east-north-east and interruptions are much more frequent. When these interruptions are due to low pressure to the west or south the winds become northerly or westerly and are very humid and rather warm: when due to a tropical cyclone they may come from any direction and be of any force up to hurricane strength.

Tropical Cyclones

Cyclones occur during the summer season, usually between November and May but they have been known to affect Mauritius slightly, on rare occasions, in September and October. The greatest frequency of occurrence is in January and February but March is also an important month as cyclones occurring then damage the more fully grown sugarcane crop to a greater extent.

Over the period for which data are available, nearly 100 years, cyclones have caused winds with gust speeds reaching about 100 miles per hour on two or three occasions and gust speeds reaching 60 miles per hour on about thirty occasions. The highest wind speeds so far recorded were in April, 1892, when the average wind speed over a whole hour reached 76 miles per hour and gust

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speeds were estimated at 114 miles per hour. The winds near the centre of a tropical cyclone are extremely gusty and this, as well as the torrential rain that occurs, adds very considerably to the damage caused to the weaker buildings and to the summer vegetation which is in its most luxuriant state.

The distribution of cyclones over the years is very irregular. It is possible, as in 1945, for the island to be struck by two destructive cyclones in a matter of weeks: on the other hand periods of 5 years and more sometimes occur with no gale winds. This year was the eighth in succession in which no damage was caused by cyclones—the length of this period of freedom from such catastrophies has never been equalled in the past 100 years.

Chapter 2—History

The island of Mauritius was probably visited both by Arab sailors and by Malays during the Middle Ages ; and on maps of about 1500 it is shown with an Arabic name. During the early sixteenth century Portuguese sailors visited it several times, and the first European to discover Mauritius is believed to have been Domingos Fernandez. The island appears on many sixteenth-century maps with the Portuguese name of Cerné or Cirné.

Dutch sailors first visited the island in 1598 and renamed it Mauritius, after their ruler Prince Maurice of Nassau ; later they made frequent calls on their trading expeditions to the East Indies. First-hand accounts of these visits exist, and of visits by English, French and Danish ships, which called at Mauritius for water, food and cargoes of ebony wood. An English trading company planned to occupy the island, but was forestalled in 1638 by a Dutch company, whose settlement lasted (with a gap from 1658 to 1664) until 1710. It was from Mauritius in 1642 that Tasman set out on his most important voyage of Australasian discovery.

The Dutch settlers never numbered much over three hundred (adults, children and slaves all counted) and the most useful element was a group of twenty or thirty farmers, rearing cattle hunting, fishing and growing food crops as well as some tobacco. But the settlement never developed enough to produce dividends, and the Dutch company finally abandoned it in 1710. The most noteworthy results of this Dutch occupation were the exploitation

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of the island's great ebony forests and the extinction of the Dodo, a bird peculiar to Mauritius, often mentioned by early seventeenth-century travellers. The Dutch are also to be remembered for the introduction of sugarcane, cotton, domestic animals and deer. Prior to the Dutch occupation the island was uninhabited. The slaves introduced into Mauritius by the Dutch were brought from Madagascar.

The French in 1715 claimed the island and called it " Ile de France," but do not seem to have settled any of their surplus Bourbon colonists there until 1722. In the intervals, European pirates from Madagascar and ships of the British navy, searching for the pirates, were almost the only visitors to the deserted island.

From 1722 till about 1767 Mauritius was governed by the French East India Company. From 1767 to 1810 it was in charge of officials appointed by the French Government, apart from the brief period of independence under the Colonial Assembly during the French Revolution. In 1735 the population had grown to almost one thousand (two hundred of them Europeans) and, from the time of the governorship of Mahé de Labourdonnais onwards, increased rapidly, reaching nearly twenty thousand in 1767 (fifteen thousand of them slaves). Labourdonnais did more than any other governor to change what was a petty outpost into a strong, prosperous and well populated colony. Much of the land was divided into concessions of approximately a quarter mile by a mile, and most of these were farmed. Coffee, manioc, maize, vegetables, fruit, indigo, cloves and sugar were among the crops grown. There was some rearing of poultry, goats and cattle.

Towards the end of the Company's rule of the island, Port Louis, the capital, was a lair of speculators and adventurers, desirous of returning to Europe as soon as they had made their fortunes. During the wars of the eighteenth century (Australian Succession War, Seven Years War, and War of American Independence), the island became a naval depot, supplying French fleets fighting the British in the Indian Ocean, and was the pivot of French schemes to drive the British out of their Indian trading settlements. It was also a port of call for several expeditions, notably that of Bougainville, and was described by many French travellers of whom the best known is Bernardin de Saint Pierre, author of *Paul et Virginie*.

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From 1767, under royal government, the population continued to increase, reaching thirty thousand in 1777, forty thousand in 1787, and nearly sixty thousand in 1797 (including fifty thousand slaves from Madagascar and Africa). During the French Revolution the inhabitants of Mauritius set up a government virtually independent of France, because the property owners were resolved to defend their interest against the *jacobins* and *sans culottes* and to resist the attempt made by the French revolutionary government, to release the slaves. The Colonial Assembly organised successful and damaging raids on English commerce, whenever England and France were at war. The raids continued while Decaen, one of Napoleon's generals, was governor, until in 1810 when a strong British expedition, long planned and more than once postponed, was sent to capture the island. A preliminary attack was foiled at Grand Port in August 1810, but the main attack, launched in December of the same year with larger forces, was successful. Bourbon and Rodrigues were also occupied by the British in 1810, but, by the Treaty of Paris in 1814, Bourbon was given back to France. Mauritius and its dependencies, including Rodrigues and Seychelles, were then ceded definitely to Great Britain.

Many English officials were brought in, together with a large garrison of several regiments. By 1870 the garrison had been gradually reduced to half a battalion, which was still further reduced after 1914. Few English merchants and private persons have settled in Mauritius, whose European population has remained mainly French in language and sentiment although loyal to the British Crown. After 1825, the island flourished, especially by the export of sugar to England, the crop increasing from 14,000 tons to 34,000 tons in the decade 1823–33. During these early years the English Government's policy to suppress the slave trade and the consequent plans to free the slaves, were opposed until a sum of two million pounds sterling was paid to the slave owners as compensation for the loss of their slaves. To replace the freed slaves, labourers were brought from India to work in the fields. The population, which in 1833 had reached a hundred thousand (three quarters of them slaves), had by 1861 risen to three hundred thousand, nearly two hundred thousand of them being immigrants from India, most of whom remained to settle in Mauritius.

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With the aid of immigrants labourers, imported fertilizers, improved methods of agriculture and richer cane varieties, the sugar crop rose to 70,000 tons in 1853, 150,000 tons by 1900, and in 1953 reached the record figure of 512,000 tons. In the interest of the sugar industry, forests were cut down, labourers brought in, reservoirs and irrigation schemes carried out, new government departments set up and technicians trained. As Joseph Conrad wrote: " First rate sugarcane is grown there. All the population lives for it and by it. Sugar is their daily bread."

Other industries were sporadically encouraged and usually neglected. After the slaves had been freed, much less food was grown locally, and more was imported, especially rice, from India. This became the staple food of the population and remained so, except when, in the 1939–45 war, rice supplies from Burma and India were cut off and imported flour and local crops had to be used as substitutes. When boom prices were being paid for sugar, after the 1914–18 war, various minor industries including tea, brick and tile manufacture, tobacco, aloe fibre bags and a government dairy were developed.

One side of Mauritian history is concerned with cyclones, epidemics and crop pests, which from time to time have upset the economy of the island. In the eighteen-fifties, there were epidemics of Cholera and in the eighteen-sixties, five years of epidemic malaria which caused the death of 20,000 people in Port Louis alone in 1867 and the mass migration of thousands of persons, including almost all the well-to-do from Port Louis and the coastal districts, to the higher, healthier parts of Plaines Wilhems. Curepipe, a scattered village in 1865, was by 1895 large enough to have a town board, nominated annually by the Governor, and by 1952, was a town of over 22,000 people. The district of Plaines Wilhems, which in 1851, had 14,000 inhabitants, grew to 75,000 in 1921 and 150,000 in 1952. The cyclone of 1892, in which 1,200 persons were killed ; the epidemic of sura in 1902, which killed off all the draught oxen and caused sugar estates hurriedly to import light railways ; bubonic plague in 1899 ; the " Phytalus Smithi " beetle which, in 1911, was found to be attacking the sugarcane ; the 1919 epidemic of influenza ; the spread of malaria during the nineteen-thirties, into the hills and higher districts, and finally, three cyclones and a serious outbreak of infantile paralysis in 1945, are some of the greater misfortunes woven into the pattern of the island's history.

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When sugar prices were high and the island was prosperous, living conditions were improved in various ways. The sanitation of Port Louis was improved in the eighteen-nineties, after long discussion. Sir Ronald Ross's visit, in 1908, led to useful anti-malarial work during the next twenty years. Reservoirs at Mare-aux-Vacoas (1893–95), La Ferme (1918), and La Nicolière (1924) brought irrigation and domestic water to private houses and to sugar estates, in several districts. Child welfare and similar activities developed in the war years. After expert inquiries in 1921, the water supply of Port Louis was greatly improved, and the port itself was modernised. Under the stimulus of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts, more money was spent on education in the nineteen-forties. Prior to 1937, government revenue had come mainly from taxes on goods entering or leaving the island as well as on various local products. A graduated poll tax on incomes was introduced and, within ten years, had almost doubled government revenue. The poll tax was replaced by an income tax as from the 1st of July, 1951. The revenue from this source rose from Rs.17,322,000 in the financial year 1950–51 to Rs 29,819,000 in the financial year 1952–53.

When sugar prices were low or climatic difficulties discouraging, the island had, at intervals, to raise loans or obtain grants from London. This happened in 1892 and again in 1908, when a Royal Commission of Inquiry under Sir Frank Swettenham, was sent out from England ; this happened again in 1930 when government expenditure on public works and on salaries was cut down ; and in 1945, the consequence of the disastrous cyclones of that year.

The main political events of the period 1850–1900 were the establishment of the Municipality of Port Louis in 1850 ; the Royal Commission of Enquiry on Indian Immigration in 1872 ; and the creation of a Legislative Council including elected members in 1886.

The early years of the present century were a period of slow recovery after the epidemics, cyclones and other calamities. The years that immediatetly followed the 1914–18 war, were years of unprecedented prosperity, owing to a boom in sugar prices, but this prosperity did not last long. During the second World War, Mauritius assumed considerable stategic importance, through the closing of the Suez Canal and the threat to India by the Japanese

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after their conquest of most of the European settlements in the Far East. The population at large played a valuable part in the organisation of local, military and passive defence and a large number of the Colony's youth volunteered to serve overseas.

Political, social and economic problems have lately claimed the attention of both the local and Home Government. In 1947 Letters Patent were issued granting the Colony a broader political franchise and in 1948 Mauritius took a step nearer that self-government which it temporarily enjoyed in the days of the French Revolution. The island is now at a turning-point in its comparatively brief history, and, whether it uses, or misuses its opportunities, is for itself to decide.

Chapter 3—Administration

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

A Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. In the following year the Constitution was amended and a Council which included unofficial members, was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and an equal number of other persons, to be taken from the chief landowners and principal merchants of the Colony ; seven officials and seven non-officials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October 1885. The Council of Government under the revised Constitution was composed of the Governor, eight ex-officio members, nine members nominated by the Governor, and ten members elected by the people ; of the latter, two represented the town of Port Louis, the capital of the island, and the remaining eight represented the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council, who were to be non-officials and, although no provision to that effect was made in the Letters Patent, the nominated non-official members were allowed a free vote on all occasions. The Constitution of the Executive Council, which had hitherto been composed of the Governor and four ex-officio members, was amended at the same time, and the practice of appointing non-official members to the Council which prevailed prior to the report of the Royal Commission of 1909 was revived.

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The normal life of a Council is five years, but the last one to sit under the 1933 Constitution lasted from 1936 to June 1948. This long extension was due, first of all, to the war and, subsequently, to the delay in arriving at a final decision on the new and more liberal Constitution. The protracted labours of the Consultative Committee on the revision of the constitution had ended in a virtual stalemate. In 1947, the then Governor, Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, broke this stalemate by submitting to the Secretary of State revised proposals, based on his belief that the bulk of the population was not ready for fully democratic institutions. To guard against possible abuse, certain safeguards were suggested, but within these limitations, the widest possible measure of enfranchisement, on the basis of a " simple literacy " requirement, was recommended by the Governor.

His recommendations were accepted and embodied in the Letters Patent, Royal Instructions and Order in Council dated the 9th December, 1947. General elections were held on the 9th and 10th August, 1948, and the new Council met on the first day of September.

Under the new constitution, British subjects, male or female, of 21 years of age or upwards, who have been ordinarily and *bona fide* residents in the Colony for a period of two years preceding an election, and:—

(a) being originally resident in some electoral district, are able to read and write simple sentences and sign their names in one of certain specified languages, to the satisfaction of the Registering Officer ; or

(b) being ordinarily resident in some electoral district, are qualified as serving in the Forces, or as ex-servicemen discharged, with certificate of satisfactory service ; or

(c) have been for six months previous to the date of registration, owners or occupiers of business premises in an electoral district.

are entitled to vote. An elector may have a vote under *(c)*, in addition to a vote under *(a) or (b)*, provided that he qualifies in respect of separate districts. Aliens, those under 21 years of age, those not possessing the residence qualification, criminals serving an unexpired sentence of over 12 months, the insane and, finally, those " disqualified for registration by any law for the time being in force in the Colony relating to offences connected with elections" are debarred from a vote.

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Electoral districts were regrouped under the Order in Council dated December 1947. Plaines Wilhems and Black River were joined together to form one electoral district returning six members. The electoral districts of Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart, Moka—Flacq and Grand Port—Savanne each return three members, and the capital constituency of Port Louis has four members, by virtue of its dense population and commercial importance.

Under the 1933 Constitution, the number of registered electors was never greater than 12,000 (the figure for December 1947 was 11,799). The number of registered electors under the new Constitution in 1948 was six times greater—71,723 having qualified to vote in the 1948 elections. The number of registered electors at the end of 1953 had risen to 91,986.

The Legislative Council is now composed of 3 ex-officio, 12 nominated non-official and 19 elected members, under the presidency of the Governor with a Vice-President elected by the Council from amongst its members (at present an elected Member). The Executive Council consists of 3 officials (the Colonial Secretary, the Financial Secretary and the Procureur General), four members selected for appointment by the Legislative Council from amongst the non-official members, and such other members as the Governor may appoint (recent practice has been for the Governor to appoint two members of the Legislative Council).

The names of members of the Executive Council and the Legislative Council and the changes in composition during the year are given in Appendices II and III to this Report.

In debates in the Legislative Council Members may speak either in English or in French.

In April 1951, the Governor announced to the Legislative Council a scheme to bring Unofficial Members in closer touch with certain government departments and thus give them the opportunity to gain fuller knowledge of departmental policy and take their share with the Governor in framing it. The duties of the " Liaison Officers " as they are called, were defined as follows:—

(a) Thoroughly to familiarize themselves with the policy set out by the Government for the working of their departments and to bring before the Governor in Council such proposals for modification or alteration in government policy as they may think fit,

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(b) Thoroughly to familiarize themselves with the steps taken by their departments to carry out the approved government policy; and, after consultation with the Departmental head, to make such suggestions as they may think fit to the Governor-in-Council for improvement in the execution of such policy.

(c) To discuss with the Departmental head, and with any appropriate Committee, the preparation of the department's annual estimates, and any application for supplementary provision and to make any representations in connection therewith, which they may think fit, to the Governor-in-Council.

Liaison Officers, as such, are not concerned with appointments, promotions or discipline. These, under the constitution of the Colony, are matters for the Secretary of State, the Governor, or the Governor-in-Council alone. The names of the Liaison Officers in 1953 are given in Appendix IV to this Report. So far only Members of the Executive Council have been appointed.

The head of the Civil Service is the Colonial Secretary. He is the Governor's chief adviser on administrative and political matters, the Financial Secretary advising on financial and economic policy.

Local Government—Rural

A fresh start in rural local government was made in October 1946, when a Civil Commissioner was appointed to take charge of the southern districts of Grand Port and Savanne. In May 1947, a second Civil Commissioner was appointed for the northern districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart, and a third Civil Commissioner, for the districts of Moka and Flacq, assumed duty towards the end of 1948. In October 1952, Black River was added to the Southern districts under the jurisdiction of the Civil Commissioner for the South. The rural parts of Plaines Wilhems and the Port Louis district still remain outside the pattern of district administration. The Civil Commissioner is the principal administrative and executive officer of Government in his district and is responsible for coordinating the whole machinery of Government. The relationship between the Civil Commissioner and his technical colleagues in the district is similar in kind to that between the Governor and Heads of Departments. He is also

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responsible for the development of local government organisations in his district and for ensuring the welfare of its inhabitants by all means at his disposal.

Village Councils were first constituted in 1947. A few councils developed very rapidly indeed and were given government contracts for such services as scavenging and the upkeep of cemeteries. With funds provided by the central administration, councils undertook road repairs and the construction of bridges, markets, water supplies, latrines, primary school buildings, a day nursery and even a housing experiment. Not all village councils have reached the same standard.

New impetus has been given to rural local government by the Village Council and District Council Ordinances which came into force on the 9th of February and on the 15th of October, 1952. respectively. Regular elections, powers to raise taxes, own property and make bye-laws greatlty enhanced the status of the village councils. The District Council which advises the Civil Commissioner on matters of policy, allocates funds to village councils and generally correlates their work, is able to raise certain taxes not applicable to any one village.

Village Councils consist of eight members elected on a liberal franchise and four members nominated by the Governor. District Councils consist of the Civil Commissioner and thirteen other members. These thirteen members are: an elected member of the Legislative Council appointed by the Governor (usually the first member for the District); a sugar estate Manager appointed by the Governor from among those in the district ; a President of a Co-operative Society elected by the Presidents of Cooperative Societies in the District; representatives of the Medical, Education and Public Works and Surveys departments appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Head of Department ; and seven Chairmen of Village Councils elected by the Chairmen of Village Councils in the district. The Chairman is elected by the members of the District Council from amongst their number and has so far been the Civil Commissioner.

There were at the end of 1953, 28 Village Councils in the South, 26 in Moka—Flacq and 27 in the North. At the end of 1952, District Councils were set up in each of the three Civil Commissioners' districts following elections held under the Ordinance,

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URBAN

The larger urban areas of Mauritius have had their own local government organisations for many years.

The constitution of the Municipality of Port Louis, which was first established in 1849, was modified at the end of 1950, by Ordinance No. 35, which increased the membership of the Council from 12 to 16 and provided suffrage on practically the same basis as the local parliamentary suffrage. There were 3,485 registered electors in 1948 ; this figure rose to 20,119 in 1953.

The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are appointed by the Council, subject to confirmation by the Governor.

In the Plaines Wilhems district, the three Boards of Commissioners, described in previous annual reports, have now been superseded by Town Councils in which the members are partly elected and partly nominated by the Governor. The Town Councils of Curepipe and Beau Bassin—Rose Hill are composed of nine elected and four nominated members, and that of Quatre Bornes of seven elected, and three nominated members. In December, 1953, the electors on the roll of the three Town Councils numbered 6,908, 6,491 and 3,511 respectively.

A Select Committee of the Legislative Council has been appointed to consider the institution of Town Councils in Mahebourg and in Vacoas—Phoenix.

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Chapter 4—Weights and Measures

The Metric system is in general use in the Colony. Certain French measures are still used in connection with measurements of land, the more common being:—

1 French foot	=	1.06 English feet
1 Arpent	=	40,000 square French feet or 1.04 acres
1 Toise	=	6 French feet or 2 yds 4 inches

The following measures of capacity are also in use:—

1 bouteille	=	800 c,c. (liquid)
1 chopine	=	half bouteille
1 Corde	=	80 French cubic feet or 96.82 English cubic feet (used only to measure firewood).

One Gaulette is referred to as 10 French feet and is used only in the field, whilst 1 livre (1 pound) is used currently to mean ½ kilogram.

Weights, measures, and scales are controlled by the Police throughout the Colony. The control of weighbridges on sugar estates is the responsibility of the Central Board constituted under the Sale of Canes (Control) Ordinance.

223 offences under the Weights and Measures Ordinance were detected during the year and 117 weights, 41 measures of capacity and 41 scales were seized.

The following is a statement showing the number of weights and measures stamped during the years 1951, 1952 and 1953.

	1951	*1952*	*1953*
Weights	25,811	31,419	33,940
Scales	6,135	6,587	6,820
Measures of capacity ...	1,798	2,710	1,937
Measures of length	506	331	371
Weighing machines ...	111	127	132

The amount of duty collected on Weights and Measures in 1953 was Rs. 10,270.40 as against Rs 9,759.85 in 1952 and Rs. 8,093.95 in 1951.

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Chapter 5—Reading List

Appendix V to this Report gives a list of Development and Welfare publications issued by the Government of Mauritius since 1944 and Appendix VI a list of leading books on Mauritius compiled from Dr. A. Toussaint's " Select Bibliography of Mauritius."

Appendix VII gives a list of publications printed in Mauritius in 1953 and deposited in the Archives Department under Ordinance 71 of 1952.

An exhaustive bibliography of Mauritius is being compiled by the Archives Department of the Colony and will be published in 1955.

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APPENDIX I

(Part I—Review of 1953)

Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Summary of Estimated Revenue

	Estimated Receipts over Ten-Year Period
	Rs.
Colonial Development and Welfare Fund (the Colony's allocation under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, 1945) ...	23,333,300
Colonial Development and Welfare Fund (Research)	2,266,000
Colonial Development and Welfare Fund (Central Allocation)	385,500
Loan Funds	60,500,000
Subventions and Reimbursements from local funds and General Revenue	22,413,595
TOTAL Rs.	108,898,395

The details of the contributions from local sources are :

	Rs.
Surplus Funds	11,300,000
Mauritius 3% Loan 1961	3,140,754
War Risk Insurance Fund	770,405
Contributions from Revenue	6,450,000
Miscellaneous other receipts	752,436
TOTAL Rs.	22,413,595

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APPENDIX I—(*continued*)

Summary of Expenditure

	Estimated Expenditure over Ten-Year Period	*Actual Expenditure 1.7.46 to 30.6.53*
	Rs.	Rs.
Administration	2,500,000	3,223,514
Agriculture	4,615,000	2,560,142
Education (Teachers' Training College) ...	1,065,711	1,065,711
Health	6,000,000	5,796,086
Nutrition	260,609	260,609
Settlement	830,000	539,942
Irrigation and Water Supplies	35,825,000	16,727,639
Buildings	12,900,000	5,654,068
Roads	2,842,000	2,935,676
Research...	8,000,000	6,890,663
Sugar Industry	5,728,908	5,728,908
Interest Charges	—	—
Scholarships and Training Grants	370,000	73,847
Sewerage	712.000	320,612
Secondary Industries ...	8,275,000	3,069,514
Forestry	750,000	710,676
Housing	10,625,000	2,320,000
Agricultural Development ...	5,000,000	—
Rodrigues	1,600,000	99,833
Unallocated	999,167	—
TOTAL Rs.	108,898,395	57,977,440

The Expenditure for the period 1946–53 was financed as follows :—

	Rs.
From the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund	14,454,065
From Loan Funds	24,890,438
From Subventions and Reimbursements ...	18,632,937
TOTAL Rs.	57,977,440

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APPENDIX I—*continued*

Approved grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts

Development Grants (Mauritius Allocation)

Scheme No.	*Description*	*Amount of Grant* £	*Amount of Grant* Rs.
D. 285	Anti-malaria survey ...	2,850	38,000
D. 301	Census	6,300	84,000
D. 397	Secretary Development and Welfare	2,150	28,667
D. 747	Teachers Training College (Building)	2,860	38,133
D. 667 D. 667A	Employment of Woman Nutrition Officer for 3 years	2,280	30,400
D. 670 D. 677G D. 667G(A) D. 706 D. 760 D. 770 D. 1022 D. 1217 D. 1457 D. 1481	Scholarships	20,491	273,213
D. 736 D. 736A	Appointment of Land Settlement Officer	4,970	66,266
D. 746 (A–G)	Anti-Malaria Works ...	375,000	5,000,000
D. 983	Construction of a Pilot Decorticating Machine ...	1,000	13,333
D. 1449 D. 1449A	Pilot Land Settlement Scheme	50,625	675,000
D. 1593 D. 1593A	Teachers' Training College Beau Bassin	40,730	543,066
D. 1737	Irrigation and Domestic Water Supply	715,000	9,533,333
D. 1766	Education Department Buildings	196,950	2,626,000
	TOTAL ...	1,421,206	18,949,411

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APPENDIX I—*continued*

Development Grants (Central Allocation)

Scheme No.	*Description*	*Amount of Grant* £	*Amount of Grant* Rs.
D. 694 ...	Scholarships	28,000	373,333
D. 1046 ...	Geological Survey	1,900	25,333
D. 1246 ...	Broadcasting Development ...	265	3,533
D. 1580 D. 1580A	Aeronautical Equipment ...	11,750	156,666
D. 1617 ...	Broadcasting Development ...	15,000	200,000
	TOTAL ...	56,915	758,865
	Research Grants		
R. 19 ...	Marine Biological Investigation	4,500	60,000
R. 38 R. 38A	Biological Control of *Cordia Macrostachya*	4,730	63,066
R 39 ...	Establishment of a Fisheries Research Station	2,850	38,000
R. 52 R. 52A	Poliomyelitis Research ...	470	6,266
R. 88 (A–J) ...	Mauritius–Seychelles Fisheries Survey	52,794	703,920
R. 138 ...	Visit of an Expert to investigate the economic possibilities of using night soil for the manufacture of compost.	430	5,733
R. 190 ...	Experiment in the growing of *Aleurites Fordii*	340	4,533
R. 227 R. 227A R. 227B	*Mosquito* Eradication Campaign	111,880	1,491,733
R. 543 ...	Entomological Research ...	11,100	148,000
	TOTAL ...	189,094	2,521,251

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APPENDIX II

(Part III—Chapter 3 : Administration)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1953

President

His Excellency Sir Hilary Blood, K.C.M.G., K.St. J., LL.D.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

J. D. Harford, Esq., C.M.G., 1st January to 11th August.

H. J. Hinchey, Esq., *(Acting)* 12th August to 11th October.

J. S. Rennie, Esq., *(Acting)* 12th October to 31st December.

The Honourable the Procureur and Advocate General.

R. Espitalier-Noël, Esq., Q.C.

The Honourable the Financial Secretary.

H. J. Hinchey, Esq., 1st January to 11th August and 12th October to 31st December.

D. A. Kain, Esq., *(Acting)* 12th August to 11th October.

Selected for appointment by the Governor

Dr. the Honourable S. Ramgoolam.

Dr. the Honourable C. E. Millien.

The Honourable A. G. Sauzier, from 1st January to 21st September.

The Honourable P. G. R. Rault, from 1st January to 21st September.

The Honourable A. Gujadhur, from 22nd September to 31st December.

The Honourable A. L. Nairac, C.B.E., from 22nd September to 31st December.

Appointed by the Governor

The Honourable R. Seeneevassen.

The Honourable A. M. Osman, O.B.E., 1st January to 26th March and 11th September to 21st September.

The Honourable H. G. Robinson, C.B.E. 27th March to 10th September.

The Honourable F. G. Martial, O.B.E., 29th September to 31st December.

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APPENDIX III

(Part III—Chapter 3 : Administration)

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE FOR THE YEAR 1953

PERIOD JANUARY TO JUNE

President

His Excellency SIR HILARY BLOOD, K.C.M.G., K.ST. J., LL.D.

Vice-President

The Honourable H. R. Vaghjee.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary (J. D. HARFORD, Esq., C.M.G.).

The Honourable the Procureur and Advocate General (R. ESPITALIER-NOËL, Esq., Q.C.).

The Honourable the Financial Secretary (H. J. HINCHEY, Esq.)

Elected Members

Dr. the Honourable S. RAMGOOLAM, for Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart.

Dr. the Honourable C. E. MILLIEN, for Port Louis.

The Honourable P. G. R. RAULT, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable R. SEENEEVASSEN, for Port Louis.

The Honourable L. R. RIVET, C.M.G., M.B.E., for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable J. M. J. L. M. J. KŒNIG, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable R. BALGOBIN, for Moka—Flacq.

The Honourable J. BEDAYSEE, for Grand Port—Savanne.

The Honourable A. BEEJADHUR, for Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart.

The Honourable S. BISSOONDOYAL, for Grand Port—Savanne.

The Honourable S. B. EMILE, for Port Louis.

The Honourable B. GUJADHUR, for Moka—Flacq.

The Honourable J. G. FORGET, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable D. LUCKEENARAIN, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

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APPENDIX III—*continued*

The Honourable Mrs. L. M. E. ROCHECOUSTE, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable J. N. ROY, for Grand Port—Savanne.

The Honourable J. G. ROZEMONT, for Port Louis.

The Honourable V. RINGADOO, for Moka—Flacq.

Nominated Members

The Honourable A. G. SAUZIER.

The Honourable A. M. OSMAN, O.B.E.

The Honourable H. G. ROBINSON, C.B.E.

The Honourable P. F. A. GELLÉ, Q.C.

Dr. the Honourable A. E. DE CHAZAL, O.B.E.

Dr. the Honourable J. M. CURÉ.

The Honourable J. E. M. L. AH-CHUEN.

The Honourable Mrs. L. M. D. DE CHAZAL, M.B.E.

The Honourable P. N. A. HAREL.

The Honourable K. S. MACDONALD.

The Honourable M. A. D. R. MAIGROT, O.B.E.

The Honourable G. M. D. ATCHIA.

Period 15.9.53 *to* 31.12.53

President

His Excellency SIR HILARY BLOOD, K.C.M.G., K.St. J., LL.D.

Vice-President

The Honourable H. R. VAGHJEE.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

(H. J. HINCHEY, Esq.,—acting—15th September to 11th October).

(J. S. RENNIE, Esq.,—acting—12th October to 31st December).

The Honourable the Procureur and Advocate General (R. ESPITALIER-NOËL, Esq., Q.C.).

The Honourable the Financial Secretary.

(D. A. KAIN, Esq.,—acting—15th September to 11th October).

(H. J. HINCHEY, Esq., 12th October to 31st December).

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APPENDIX III—*continued*

Elected Members

Dr. the Honourable S. RAMGOOLAM, for Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart.

Dr. the Honourable C. E. MILLIEN, for Port Louis.

The Honourable R. SEENEEVASSEN, for Port Louis.

The Honourable A. GUJADHUR, for Moka—Flacq.

The Honourable J. M. J. L. M. J. KŒNIG, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable A. BEEJADHUR, for Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart.

The Honourable S. BISSOONDOYAL, for Grand Port—Savanne.

The Honourable J. G. FORGET, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable P. G. R. RAULT, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable J. G. ROZEMONT, for Port Louis.

The Honourable V. RINGADOO, for Moka—Flacq.

Dr. the Honourable R. BHAGEERUTTY, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable S. BOOLELL, for Moka—Flacq.

The Honourable F. S. CHADIEN, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

Dr. the Honourable L. R. CHAPERON, for Plaines Wihems—Black River.

The Honourable A. R. MOHAMED, for Port Louis.

The Honourable L. P. ROZEMONT, for Grand Port—Savanne.

The Honourable G. VENKATASAMY, for Grand Port—Savanne.

Nominated Members

The Honourable A. L. NAIRAC, C.B.E.

The Honourable F. G. MARTIAL, O.B.E.

The Honourable A. M. OSMAN, O.B.E.

Dr. the Honourable A. E. DE CHAZAL, O.B.E.

The Honourable J. E. M. L. AH-CHUEN.

The Honourable M. A. D. R. MAIGROT, O.B.E.

The Honourable A. G. SAUZIER.

The Honourable A. RAFFRAY, Q.C.

The Honourable H. BAHEMIA.

Dr. the Honourable L. A. CÉLESTIN.

The Honourable G. J. M. SCHILLING.

The Honourable D. TAYLOR.

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APPENDIX IV

(Part III—Chapter 3 : Administration)

LIAISON OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1953

Period 1 January to Reconstitution of the Executive Council following the General Elections

Dr. the Honourable S. RAMGOOLAM	...	Education.
Dr. the Honourable C. E. MILLIEN	...	Agriculture and Fisheries.
The Honourable A. G. SAUZIER	...	Public Works, Irrigation and Electric Supplies.
The Honourable P. G. R. RAULT	...	Forest and Civil Aviation.
The Honourable A. M. OSMAN	...	Labour, Social Welfare and Prisons.

Period after the reconstitution of the Executive Council

Dr. the Honourable S. RAMGOOLAM	...	Education.
Dr. the Honourable C. E. MILLIEN	...	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests
The Honourable R. SEENEEVASSEN	...	Health, Welfare Services and Prisons
The Honourable A. L. NAIRAC, C.B.E.	...	Labour.

APPENDIX V

(Part III—Chapter 5 : Reading list)

Mauritius Development and Welfare

LIST OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

No.		*Date of Publication*	
1.	Memorandum by Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, K.C.M.G., on the Development and Welfare Organisation	February	1944
2.	Report on Health Conditions in Mauritius by Dr. A. Rankine, M.C.	March	1944
3.	Co-operation in Mauritius. Report by W. K. H. Campbell, C.M.G.	April	1945
4.	Report on sanitary conditions affecting an outbreak of Poliomyelitis in Mauritius by Dr. Kenneth Martin and Mr. J. S. Stirton	July	1945

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APPENDIX V—*continued*

No.		*Date of Publication*
5.	Irrigation Proposals	August 1945
6.	Mauritius Hemp Industry	August 1945
7.	Report of the Industrial Development Advisory Committee	September 1945
8.	Memorandum by Dr. The Honourable A. E. de Chazal on Proposed Scheme for Improvement and Expansion of the Medical and Health Services in Mauritius ...	May 1946
9.	Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan 1946–47 to 1955–56 including draft estimates for 1946–47	June 1946
10.	Memorandum on Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan Estimates ...	June 1946
11.	An Essay on Housing, Urban and Rural Planning with special reference to Mauritius by R. Lavoipierre	August 1946
12.	Revised Memorandum on Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan	October 1946
13.	Report on The Tea Industry of Mauritius by Captain E. G. B. de Mowbray, C.B.E., R.N. (retd.)	September 1946
14.	Report on the Engineering aspect of the Sewage Disposal of Plaines Wilhems District and on the existing and proposed filtration plants connected with Domestic Water Supply	August 1947
15.	Report on the possibilities of Land Settlement in Mauritius	January 1948
16.	Reports on the Mauritius Fibre Industry by G. Winslow Lock, O.B.E. and P. W. Lees	May 1948
17.	Report on the Housing of Sugar Estate Workers by Prof. L. W. Thornton White, F.R.I. B.A., M.I.A.	December 1948
18.	Report of the Power Alcohol Committee ...	November 1949
19.	First, second and third report of the Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan Reviewing Committee	February 1950
20.	Fourth Report of the Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan Reviewing Committee	March 1950

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APPENDIX VI

(Part III—Chapter 5 : Reading list)

Leading Books on Mauritius

Compiled from Dr. A. Toussaint's *Select Bibliography of Mauritius* (Mauritius, The Standard Printing Establishment, 1951—60pp.).

GENERAL

GENERALIA

UNIENVILLE, Marie Claude Antoine Marrier, baron d': Statistique de l'île Maurice et ses dépendances suivi d'une Notice historique sur cette colonie et d'un Essai sur l'île de Madagascar. Paris, G. Barba, 1838. 3 vols.

A second edition was published in Port Louis, Typ. The Merchants and Planters Gazette, 1885–86, 3 vols, with phot. portr.

MACMILLAN, Allister, ed: Mauritius Illustrated Historical and descriptive, commercial and industrial facts, figures, and resources. London, W. H. and L. Collingridge, 1914. 456., with numerous illus. and maps.

WALTER, A.: Chronological table of events in Mauritius, 1507–1916. Appendix to the Mauritius Almanac, (1917). Mauritius, The Mauritius Stationery and Printing Cy. Ltd., 1917. 57p.

Fairly complete for the period of British occupation.

CHAROUX, Clément: Guide illustré de l'île Maurice. Port Louis. General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1936. 64, (32), IIp., illus.

The only tourist hand-book on Mauritius.

TOUSSAINT, Auguste: Port Louis, deux siècles d'histoire, (1735–1935). Avec une Préface de Pierre Crespin, Docteur-es-Lettres, Lauréat de l'Académie Française. Port Louis, La Typographie Moderne, 1936. (IX), 516p., with 50 plates and 9 maps.

Published on the occasion of the celebration of the bi-centenary of the foundation of Port Louis under the patronage of the Bi-centenary Committee, the Historical Records Committee and the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius. A very full account of the development of Port Louis.

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APPENDIX VI—*continued*

BARNWELL, P. J. and TOUSSAINT, A.: A short history of Mauritius. London, Longmans, Green & Co. 1949. 268p., illus.

SORNAY, Pierre de: Isle de France—Ile Maurice. Port Louis. The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1950. XIV, 550, XXVIIp., illus., 28cm.

TOUSSAINT, Dr. Auguste: Select bibliography of Mauritius. Port Louis, The Standard Printing Establishment, 1951. 56p. 22cm.

ADMINISTRATIVE

ADMINISTRATION AND POLITICS

SWETTENHAM, Sir Frank Athestane, and others: Report of the Mauritius Royal Commission, 1909, presented to both Houses of Parliament by command of His Majesty, June 1910 (Cd.5185). London, Eyre and Spottiswoode Ltd., 1910.60, XIIIp.

Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence printed separately (Cd. 5186), 581p. Documents received by the Commission also printed separately (Cd. 5187), 135p.

SWINDEN, J. B.: Local Government in Mauritius. Mauritius, Government Press, 1946. 25p.

Revision of the Constitution. Correspondence with the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Mauritius, Government Press, 1947. 18p.

Problems of Parliamentary Government in Colonies—A report by the Hansard Society.

SOCIAL

POPULATION

BEEJADHUR, Aunauth: Les Indiens a l'Ile Maurice. Port Louis, La Typographie Moderne, 1935. 126p.

SLAVERY

TOUSSAINT, Auguste, ed.: Les missions d'Adrien d'Epinay (1830–1834). Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1946. XXXII, 216p.

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APPENDIX VI—*continued*

EDUCATION

WARD, W. E. F.: Report on Education in Mauritius. Mauritius, Government Press, 1952. 58p.

SELECT COMMITTEE: Report of the Select Committee on the Ward Report on Education. Mauritius, Government Press, 1953. 41p.

NICHOLS, A. E.: A report on secondary education in Mauritius. Mauritius, The Government Printer, 1949, 31, (2)p.

ECONOMICS

ECONOMICS

ELLIOT, Ivo D. and LOUGHNANE, N. G.: Financial situation of Mauritius. Report of a commissin appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, December, 1931. Presented by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Parliament by Command of His Majesty, March, 1932. (Cmd. 4034). London, H.M. Stationery Office, 1932. 285p., map.

HOOPER, Charles Arthur, and others: Report on the Commission of enquiry into unrest on sugar estates in Mauritius, 1937. Mauritius, Government Press, 1938. XXIII, 253p.

MOODY, S., and others: Report of the Commission of Enquiry into the disturbances which occurred in the North of Mauritius in 1943. London, n.d. 81p., 1 map.

AGRICULTURE AND AGRONOMY

NORTH COOMBES, A: Tea in Mauritius, 1817–1944. Revue Agricole de l'île Maurice, vol. XXIII, No. 6, Nov.–Dec. 1944. p. 288–241.

An historical survey of the tea industry.

NORTH COOMBES, G. A.: The fibre industry of Mauritius. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1951. 85p. 20.7cm.

SUGARCANE

SORNAY, Pierre de: La canne à sucre à l'Ile Maurice. Paris, Challamel, 1920. VIII, 677p., illus., maps.

SORNAY, P. and SORNAY, A. de: Manuel de la canne à sucre à l'usage des charges de cours et des élèves des grandes écoles coloniales. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1952. 279p. 22.5cm.

A revised 2nd edition.

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APPENDIX VI—*continued*

SCIENTIFIC

METEOROLOGY

HERCHENRODER, Marc: La pluie à l'île Maurice. Etude de soixante années d'observations. Préface de Maxime Kœnig. Maurice, The General Printing and Stationery Ltd., 1935. 61p.

BOTANY

VAUGHAN, R. E. and WIEHÉ, P. O.: Studies on the vegetation of Mauritius.

HUBBARD, C. E. and VAUGHAN, R. E.: The grasses of Mauritius and Rodriguez. With a foreword by Sir Arthur W. Hill, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. London, Waterlow & Sons, 1940. 128p., illus.

ZOOLOGY

STRICKLAND, H. E. and MELVILLE, H. E.: The Dodo and its kindred ; or the history, affinities and osteology of the Dodo, Solitaire and other extinct birds of the islands Mauritius, Rodriguez and Bourbon. London, Reeve, Benham and Reeve, 1848. 142p., 9 woodcuts, 16 plates.

WHEELER, DR. J. F. G. and OMMANNEY, DR. F. D.: Report on the Mauritius—Seychelles fisheries survey, 1948–49. London, H.M.S.O. 1953. 145p.

LITERARY

FOLK-LORE

BAISSAC, Charles: Etude sur le patois créole mauricien. Nancy, Berger-Levrault & Cie., 1880. (VI), LVII, 234p.

BAISSAC, Charles: Le Folk-Lore de l'île Maurice (Texte créole et traduction française) (t.XXVII de la collection. Les littératures populaires de toutes les nations). Paris, Maisonneuve &Ch.Leclerc, 1888. (VIII), XIX, 468p.

LITERATURE

JOUVANCOURT, Hugues de, ed: Poètes et prosateurs de l'Ile Maurice: Anthologie 1850–1951. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1952, 260 p., illus., 27 cm.

LITERARY PRODUCTIONS: French

BERNARDIN DE SAINT PIERRE, Jacques Henri: Paul et Virginie.

First published in 1788 and since then often reprinted. The finest French edition is that of Curmer, Paris, 1838. A number of English and American translations are available.

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APPENDIX VI—*continued*

Literary Productions: English

Malim, Michael: 'Island of the Swan. London, Longmans, Green & Co. 1952. 232p.

Ommanney, Dr. F. D.: The Shoals of Capricorn.

HISTORICAL

Early History

Pitot, Albert: T'Eylandt Mauritius. Esquisses historiques (1598–1710). Précédés d'une notice sur la découverte des Mascareignes et suivies d'une monographie du Dodo, des Solitaires de Rodrigue et de Bourbon et de l'Oiseau Bleu. Maurice, Coignet frères & Cie, 1905. 372p.

The ony complete history of Mauritius during the Dutch period.

Visdelou-Guimbeau, G. de: La découverte des îles Mascareignes. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1949. 65p., illus.

French History

Pitot, Albert: L'Ile de France. Esquisses historiques (1715–1810) Port Louis, E. Pezzani, 1899. III, 447p.

Mahé de Labourdonnais, B. F.: Mémoire des Iles de France et de Bourbon. Edité par Albert Lougnon et Auguste Toussaint. Paris, E. Leroux, 1937. IX, 204p.

The first complete edition of Labourdonnais' report to the French East India Company on his administration of Mauritius from 1735 to 1740, from the manuscript preserved in the Curepipe Carnegy Library, Mauritius.

British History

Gordon, Sir Arthur Hamilton: Mauritius: Records of private and public life (1871–1874). Edinburgh, R. Clark, 1894. 2 vols.

Contains a full account of the events that led to the appointment of the Royal Commission to enquire into the treatment of Indian immigrants in Mauritius.

Pitot, Albert: L'Ile Maurice. Esquisses Historiques. 1810–23, 1823–28, 1828–33. 3 vols. Printed in 1910, 1912 and 1914.

Duclos, Adolphe: L'évolution nationale mauricienne. Paris, Jouve & Cie., 1924. 586p.

Contains a full account of the movement for the retrocession of Mauritius to France that took place in 1919–21.

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APPENDIX VI—*continued*

Biography and Memoirs

MAURE, André: Souvenirs d'un vieux colon de l'île Maurice renfermant tous les évènements qui lui sont arrivés depuis 1790 jusqu'en 1837, époque du bill d'émancipation, ce qui renferme une période de 46 ans, dédiés a Sir Walter Minto Farquhar, baronet, gouverneur et capitaine-général des îles Maurice et dépendances. La Rochelle, Typ. de Frédéric Boutet, 1840. (VI), 526p.

BIJOUX, J. O.: Remy Ollier, sa vie et son oeuvre. Jugement de la postérité. Port Louis, Nouvelle Imprimerie Co-opérative, 1910. 452p., 1 plate.

Remy Ollier was prominent among those who struggled for the abolition of the colour bar in Mauritius in the first half of the 19th century.

CREPIN, Pierre: Mahé de Labourdonnais. Paris, E. Leroux, 1922. XXXVI, 488p., illus., maps.

Thesis submitted for the degree of *Docteur-ès-Lettres* of the University of Paris. Labourdonnais was one of the most successful French governors of Mauritius.

GEOGRAPHICAL

Geography

ARDILL, R. H.: A school geography of Mauritius. Mauritius, Government Press, 1945. 55p., maps and diagrams.

Travels

LEGUAT, François: Voyage et aventures de François Leguat et de ses compagnons en deux îles désertes des Indes Orientales, avec la relation des choses les plus remarquables qu'ils ont observées dans l'Isle Maurice, a Batavia, au Cap de Bonne Espérance, dans l'isle de Ste. Hélène et en d'autres endroits de leur route. Londres, David Mortier, 1708. 2 vols. with plates and maps.

English edition with notes by Captain Pasfield Olivier for the Hakluyt Society. London, 1891, 2 vols.

PIKE, Nicholas: Sub-tropical rambles on the land of the Aphanapteryx Personal experiences, adventures and wanderings in and around the island of Mauritius. London, Sampson Low, Marston and Searle, 1873. (II), XVIII, 512p., illus., 15 plates maps.

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APPENDIX VII

List of publications printed in Mauritius in 1953 and deposited in the Archives Department under Ordinance 71 of 1952

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

(UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, THESE PUBLICATIONS ARE ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER)

Archives Department

Mauritius Archives Publications—Atlas souvenir de l'abbé de La Caille.

6p., fronts., 9 maps, 46.2cm.

Annual report of the Archives Department for the year 1952. ...

29p., 24.6cm. R. 0.50 cs.

Mauritius Archives Publications—Exposition Labourdonnais, 1753–1953: portrait et autographe de Labourdonnais. *Photo-copied.*

2p., illus., 29.2cm. Rs. 2.00

Mauritius Archives—Catalogue de l'Exposition Labourdonnais, 1753–1953. Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd.

10p., 20.5cm. R. 0.50 cs.

Central Statistical Office

Year book of statistics. Rose Hill, *processed.* No. 6 1951.

186p., 33cm.

Census 1952 of Mauritius and of its dependencies.

Parts I–III. Rs. 5.00 each

Civil Service Widows and Orphans' Pension Fund

Annual report of the Directors of the Civil Service Widows and Orphans' Pension Fund, 1952.

5p., 24.8cm. R. 0.25 cs.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Colonial Secretary's Office

White paper on the Trade Unions Bill and Trade Disputes Bill.
5p., 33.6cm. R. 0.50 cs.

Mauritius General Clerical Service List. January 1953.
13p., 24.8cm.

Trial of offences under certain sections of the Penal Code.
4p., 33.6cm. R. 0.25 cs.

Staff List. 1st January, 1953.
48p., 25cm.

Estimate, 1953–54, as passed by the Legislative Council on June 19, 1953.
242p., 33.2cm. Rs. 5.00

Memorandum on estimates, 1953–54.
12p., 33.3cm. R. 1.00

Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council of Mauritius during the year 1952.
v, 197p., 24.6cm. Rs. 5.00

Financial report for the year 1951–52.
(xx), 81p., 33.5cm. Rs. 4.50

A collection of proclamations and Government notices published during the year 1952.
(414)p., 24.8cm. Rs. 7.50

Annual report on Mauritius, 1952.
ii, 200p., 1 map, 21.1cm. Rs. 6.00

Co-operation Department

Annual report of the Department of Co-operation for the year ended 30th April, 1952.
32p., 24.8cm. R. 0.50

Council Office

Mauritius Legislative Council—Debates.
nos. 37–46 1952 Between R. 0.25 cs. and
,, 1–27 1953 R. 1.00 each

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Mauritius Legislative Council—Sessional papers. nos. 1–8 1953 R. 0.50 cs. each

Mauritius Legislative Council—Minutes of proceedings: 4th and 5th sessions 1952.
58p., 33.7cm. Rs. 5.00

Standing orders and rules of the Legislative Council of Mauritius. Second (1953) edition.
86p., 16.6cm.

Mauritius Legislative Council—Ruling book. Third edition.
14, vp., 24.5cm. R. 0.50 cs.

Customs Department

Annual report of the Customs Department for the year 1952.
40, iip., 2 diag., 24.7cm. R. 0.75 cs.

Cyclone and Drought Insurance Board

Report on the working of the Cyclone and Drought Insurance Board for the year ended December 31, 1952.
4p., 24.6cm. R. 0.25 cs.

Department of Agriculture

The Bean fly and diseases of bean.
4p., 25.6cm. (Advisory leaflet No. 6).

MAURITIUS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

Annual report of the Mauritius College of Agriculture, January 1951 to April 1952.
9p., 24.6cm. R. 0.25 cs.

FISHERIES BRANCH

Annual report of the Fisheries Branch, 1952. *Processed.*
33p., 33.3cm.

SUGARCANE RESEARCH STATION

Twenty-third annual report of the Sugarcane Research Station, 1952.
ii, 28p., 24.1cm. R. 0.75 cs.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Dependencies

Annual report on Rodrigues for the year 1952.
28p., 3 diag., 24.7cm. R. 0.50 cs.

Development and Welfare

Mauritius Development and Welfare—Ten year plan: 1946–47 to 1955–56—Draft estimates for 1953–54.
34p., 34cm.

Mauritius Development and Welfare—Ten year plan: 1946–47 to 1955–56—Estimates for 1953–54, as passed by the Legislative Council on 30th June, 1953.
34p., 34cm. R. 1.00

Memorandum on the Mauritius Development and Welfare estimates, 1953–54. R. 0.25 cs.
3p., 34cm.

ARCHITECTURAL BRANCH

Riche-en-eau housing experiment—Addendum report containing costing information and analysis.
31p., 24.4cm. R. 0.75 cs.

Discharged Persons' Aid Committee

Annual report of the Discharged Persons' Aid Committee for the year 1952.
7p., 24.4cm. R. 0.25 cs.

District Administration

Report on district administration in Mauritius for 1952.
15p., 24.6cm. R. 0.25 cs.

Education Department

Annual report of the Education Department for the year 1952.
iv, 105p., 24.5cm. R. 1.75 cs.

Food Production Board

Seventh progress report, 1951–52.
14p., 24.7cm. R. 0.25 cs.

Government Printing Office

Annual report of the Government Printing Office, 1952.
10p., 24.7cm. R. 0.25 cs.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Government Shipping Service Committee

Report of the Government Shipping Service Committee.

4p., 24.6cm. R. 0.25 cs.

Harbour and Quays Department

Annual report of the Harbour and Quays Department, year 1952. *Processed.*

10p., 36cm.

Income Tax Department

Annual report of the Income Tax Department for the year 1951–52.

11p., 24.6cm R. 0.25 cs.

Judicial Department

Annual report of the Judicial Department for the year 1952.

11p., 24.9cm. R. 0.25 cs.

Report on the treatment of offenders in Mauritius for 1951.

50p., 24.5cm. R. 0.75 cs.

HERCHENRODER, *Sir* F., *comp.*

The Mauritius reports, 1952.

397p., 25.2cm. Rs. 30.00

Labour Department

Annual report of the Labour Department for 1951.

48p., 3 diag., 24.6cm. R. 0.75 cs.

REGISTRAR OF ASSOCIATIONS BRANCH

Annual report of the Registrar of Associations for the year 1952. *Processed.*

13p., 34.5cm.

Legal Department

Annual report on legislation for 1952. *Processed.*

9p., 34.3cm.

Mauritius Agricultural Bank

Annual report of the Mauritius Agricultural Bank for the year 1952. Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd.

16p., 22.5cm.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Mauritius Institute

Annual report of the Mauritius Institute, 1951.
28p., 24.7cm. R. 0.50 cs.

Medical and Health Department

Departmental pharmacopeia.
25p., 16.9cm.

Annual report on the Medical and Health Department, 1952.
142p., 11 diagrs., 24.6cm. Rs. 2.25 cs.

Observatory Department

Annual report of the Observatory Department for the year 1951.
13p., 24.7cm. R. 0.25 cs.

Royal Alfred Observatory—Results of magnetical and meteorological observations.
v. 35, pts. 11,12.
v, 36, pts. 1,2.

Police Department

Annual report on the Mauritius Police Force and on Crime and the Government Fire Services for the year 1952.
ii, 61p., 24.5cm. R. 1.00

Post Office Department

Annual report of the Posts and Telegraphs Department for the year 1952.
9p., 24.5cm. R. 0.25 cs.

SAVINGS BANK BRANCH

Annual report of the Post Office Savings Bank for the financial year 1951–52.
8p., 24.7cm. R. 0.25 cs.

Public Assistance Department

Cyclone handbook.
28p., 16.6cm.

Public Works Department

Annual report of the Public Works and Surveys Department for the financial year 1951–52. *Processed.*
(25)p., 34.5cm.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Railway Department

Mauritius Government Railways—Regulations for the guidance of the staff to deal with and account for passengers, goods and parcels traffic, etc.

xxiv, 272p., 16.6cm.

Registrar General's Department

Report on the working of the Registrar General's Department for the year 1951. *Processed,* 1952.

35p., 35.5cm.

Report on the working of the Registrar General's Department for the year 1952. *Processed.*

36p., 35.2cm.

Supplies Control Department

Annual report of the Supplies Control Department 1952. *Processed.*

13p., 35.2cm.

Tobacco Board

Report on the operations of the Tobacco Board and the Tobacco Warehouse, year ended 30th June, 1953. Port Louis, Nouvelle Imprimerie Co-opérative.

27p., 21.1cm.

Transport Control Board

Annual report on the Transport Control Board for the year 1952.

4p., 24.7cm. R. 0.25 cs.

PRIVATE PUBLICATIONS

Ahnee, Selmour

Fagots Vol. 1, 1953. Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd.

288p., 19.1cm. Rs. 10.00

British Red Cross Society (Mauritius Branch)

Report for the year 1952. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

25p., 23.6cm.

Carles, André

L'azote et l'économie agricole. Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd.

30p., 21.7cm.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Charoux, Clément

Chronique du pays créole. Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd.

192p., 20.1cm. Rs. 6.00

Chazal, Malcolm de

Judas. Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd.

77p., 19.2cm. Rs. 8.00

Judas ou la trahison du prêtre. Port Louis, Popular Printing.

33p., 17.4cm.

Préambule à l'absolu. Port Louis, Almadina Press.

20p., 16.6cm.

Pentateuque. Port Louis, Almadina Press.

58p., 16.9cm.

L'absolu. Tome I. Port Louis, Almadina Press.

308p., 16.4cm. Rs. 10.00

Diocese of Mauritius

A form of prayer and thanksgiving to Almightly God for use in St. James Cathedral, Port Louis, Mauritius at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, 2nd June, 1953 being the day of coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth in the Abbey Church of St. Peter, Westminster. Port Louis, The Government Printer.

8p., 24.7cm.

Diocese of Port Louis

Annales du Diocèse de Port Louis, 1946–49. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

ii, 490p., illus., 21.6cm. Rs. 10.00

Giblot Ducray, Charles

L'exposition de Madagascar, 1952: la participation de l'Ile Maurice à cette exposition. Port Louis, The Standard Printing Establishment.

8p., 21.5cm.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Guérin, René

Le merle de Madagascar. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

4p., 23.7cm.

La berniérie de Madagascar. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

4p., 23.7cm.

Le merle de la Grande Comore. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

3p., 23.7cm.

La grive d'Anjouan. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

2p., 23.7cm.

Le merle d'Aldabra. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

2p., 23.7cm.

La veuve des Seychelles. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

2p., 23.7cm.

La grive de la Grande Comore. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

1p., 23.7cm.

Le merle des Seychelles. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

3p., 23.7cm.

Le coq des bois. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

5p., 23.7cm.

L'agrodrome champêtre. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

5p., 23.7cm.

Le martinet de Mayotte. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

1p., 23.7cm.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Guérin, René—continued

Le martinet épineux. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

2p., 23.7cm.

Le martinet nain. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

3p., 23.7cm.

La petite hirondelle ou salangane. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

6p., 23.7cm.

Le martinet noir. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

4p., 23.7cm.

L'engoulevent d'Aldabra. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

4p., 23.7cm.

La chevêche de Rodrigue. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

5p., 23.7cm.

Le hibou de Maurice. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

4p., 23.7cm.

Le scops ou scieur des Seychelles. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

2p., 23.7cm.

L'effraie éteinte de Maurice. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

4p., 23.7cm.

Le petit-duc de Madagascar. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

5p., 23.7cm.

Le gobe-mouche de Madagascar. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

5p., 23.9cm.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Guérin, René—*continued*

L'ellisie d'Anjouan. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

3p., 23.9cm.

La fauvette des Seychelles. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

4p., 24.1cm.

La pie chanteuse des Seychelles. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

2p., 23.9cm.

Le gobe-mouche d'Anjouan. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

2p., 23.9cm.

Le gobe-mouche de la Grande Comore. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

2p., 23.9cm.

La chélidon de fenêtre. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

4p., 23.8cm.

La fauvette de Rodrigue. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

2p., 23.7cm.

L'hirondelle rustique. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

5p., 23.9cm.

La fauvette de Madagascar. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

3p., 23.9cm.

Les corbeaux indien des Relations. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

2p., 23.8cm.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Guérin, René—*continued*

Le choucari de la Grande Comore. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

3p., 23.9cm.

Le choucari de la Grande Comore. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

2p., 23.7cm.

Le merle cuisinier de la Réunion. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

4p., 23.6cm.

Le drongo de Mayotte. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

2p., 23.8cm.

Le drongo d'Aldabra. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

3p., 23.9cm.

La pie-grièche bleue. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

4p., 23.8cm.

L'hirondelle de rivage. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

5p., 23.8cm.

Le drongo d'Anjouan. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

5p., 23.8cm.

Hall, Denise

Jaillissements. Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd., 1952.

72p., 20.3cm. Rs. 5.00

Ignace, L.D., tr.

" Jehovah's witnesses " (Les témoins de Jehovah). Port Louis, Almadina Press.

17p., 21.2cm.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Issac, A. H. G. M., and Raman, A. G. A.

The Jummah Mosque, Mauritius, 1852–1952. Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd.

v. 43p., illus., 25.3cm. Rs. 5.00

Legallant, André

Gaspardou. Port Louis, Modern Printing.

117., 18.9cm. Rs. 7.00

Loreto Convent of Port Louis

Arithmetic, Classes III and IV. Port Louis, Nouvelle Imprimerie Co-opérative.

56p., 19.4cm.

Loreto Convent of Quatre Bornes

Le petit catéchisme. Port Louis, Imprimerie Co-opérative Père Laval Ltée.

8p., 15.5cm.

Maudho, S.

Physical and regional geography—Mauritius and her neighbours. Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd.

79p., 6 maps, 6 diag., 18.6cm. Rs. 3.50

Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture

Chambre d'Agriculture de l'Ile Maurice—Rapport du président sur l'exercice 1952–53. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

30, xlviiip., 32.1cm. Rs. 8.00

The president's report for the year 1952–53. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

28, xlviiip., 32.2cm. Rs. 8.00

La Chambre d'Agriculture de l'Ile Maurice, 1853–1953. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

(415)p., frontisp., 1 map, illus., 27.6cm.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Mauritius Chamber of Commerce

Annual report of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce for the year 1952–53. Port Louis, Standard Printing Establishment.

10p., 31.8cm.

Mauritius Sailors' Home Society

Mauritius Sailors' Home Society—Honorary Secretary's annual report and cash statements, 1951–52. Port Louis, Nouvelle Imprimerie Co-opérative.

6p., 23.5cm.

Mauritius Turf Club

Rules of racing, 1953. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

19p., 17.8cm. Rs. 5.00

Moitessier, Bernard

Journal de bord de Bernard Moitessier. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

24p., 23.7cm. Rs. 3.00

Oosman, Abdool Sattar Noormahomed

Ya-si-ine. Port Louis, Almadina Press.

47., 13.6cm.

Port Louis Tennis Club

Port Louis Tennis Club, 1903–1953. Port Louis, Nouvelle Imprimerie Co-opérative.

16p., 20.2cm.

Railway Memorial and Beneficient Association

Railway Memorial and Beneficient Association—Rules, 1953. Port Louis. The Modern Printing, 1952.

12p., 16.7cm.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Sévène-Bérichon, J.

Le bon vieux temps. Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd.
137p., 19.2cm. Rs. 8.50

Société d'Assistance Mutuelle

Status de la Société d'Assistance Mutuelle. Port Louis, The Modern Printing.
19p., 19cm.

Société des Chasseurs de L'Ile Maurice

Rapport du président au 26 Juin 1953. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.
5p., 21.4cm.

Sornay, Pierre de

Calomnies contre les franco-mauriciens: autres réfutations. Slanders against franco-mauritians: réfutation. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.
36, ivp., 19.2cm.

Unienville, Noël d'

L'oeuvre étonnante des mauriciens. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.
(283)p., illus., 27.2cm. Rs. 100.00

Union Catholique de L'Ile Maurice

Congrès d'action catholique, 26 Avril–3 Mai 1953. Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd.
4p., 21.1cm.

Williams, T.

The choice of three phase electric motors for use in sugar factories and other industrial places. Port Louis, Standard Printing Establishment.
43p., 22.5cm.

PERIODICALS

Amaranth, The

Port Louis, Almadina Press.
no. 5 June.

Aryoday

Port Louis, Shradhanand Printing Establishment.
4th year, nos. 95–143. Jan.—Dec.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Breeder's news, The

Port Louis, Standard Printing Establishment.
v. 9, no. 4 Nov.—Dec., 1952.
,, 9, nos. 5, 6 Jan.—Apri.
,, 10, nos. 1–3 May—Oct. R. 1.00 each

Chinese Students' Association quarterly, The

Port Louis, Popular Printing.
4ht year, nos. 12–13 Apr. R. 1.00

Chinese Students' Association magazine, The

Port Louis Popular Printing.
4th year, no. 14 Dec. R. 1.00

Church magazine

Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.
January–November R. 0.20 cs. each

Cosmos

Port Louis, The Colonial Printing.
nos. 6–9 Jan.–Aug. R. 1.00 each

Diocesan quarterly magazine, The

Port Louis, Standard Printing Establishment.
v. 12, nos. 12–15 Jan.–Oct. Rs. 2.00 p.a.

Epée, L'

Port Louis, Service Printing.
nos. 1–9 Nov.–Dec. R. 0.05 cs. each

Essor, L'

Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd.
34th year, nos. 298–302 Jan.–Oct. Rs. 2.50 cs. each

Flambeau, Le

Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy.Ltd.
no. 1 November.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Forum

Port Louis, A. M. L. Beeharry.
no. 1 December 1952.
Port Louis, The Regent Press and Stationery.
no. 2 March.
Port Louis Imprimerie Commerciale.
Coronation special no. June — R. 1.00 each

Indian cultural review, The

Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd.
v. 4 no. 2 January.
Coronation no. June.
v. 4 no. 3 July — R. 1.50 cs. each

J.O. et Tribune ouvrière

Port Louis, Imprimerie Co-opérative Père Laval Ltée.
2nd year, nos. 1–21 Jan.–Dec. — R. 1.20 cs. p.a.

Légionnaires

Port Louis, Standard Printing Establishment.
no. 28 July–Sept. 1952.
nos. 29–32 Jan.–Dec. — R. 0.25 cs. each

Maurice sports

Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd.
nos. 3–9 Jan.–July — Rs. 2.00 each
New series, no. 1 Sept. — R. 0.50 cs.

Progrès islamique, Le

Rose Hill, Shiva Mayam Printing Press.
v. 5, nos. 7–24 Jan.–Sept.
v. 6, nos. 1–6 Oct.–Dec. — R. 0.10 cs. each

Renouveau

Port Louis, Imprimerie Co-opérative Père Laval Ltée.
nos. 1–7 Apr.—Nov.
Special Christmas no. Dec.

Revue agricole de l'Ile Maurice, La

Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.
v. 31, no. 6 Nov.–Dec. 1952.
v. 32, nos. 1–5 Jan.–Oct. — Rs. 3.50 cs. each

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Revue artistique, La

Port Louis, The Regent Press and Stationery.
17th year Oct.–Dec. 1952.
17th year Jan.–June.
18th year July–Oct. Rs. 5.00 each

Revue de Marie

Port Louis, Standard Printing Establishment.
44th year, no. 10 Dec. 1952.
44th year, nos. 11, 12 Jan.–Feb.
45th year nos. 1–10 Mar.–Dec. R. 0.50 cs. each

Revue française du Collège Royal, La

Curepipe, *processed.*
no. 1 June.

Revue rétrospective de l'Ile Maurice, La

Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.
v. 3, no. 6 Nov. 1952.
v. 4, nos. 1, 2 Jan.–Mar. Rs. 5.00 each

Royal College bulletin (Local History group)

Curepipe, *processed.*
no. 2 February.

Royal College School magazine, The

Port Louis, The Regent Press and Stationery.
1952.

Sapientia

Port Louis, The Modern Printing.
no. 12 Jan.–Feb.

Spiritus

Port Louis, Standard Printing Establishment.
v. 2, no. 1 Trinity and Hilary terms.
v. 2, no. 2 Michaelmas term. R. 0.75 cs. each

Travailliste, Le

Port Louis, Service Printing.
3rd year, nos. 115–120 Jan.–Feb.
3rd year, nos. 122–140 Feb.–July. R. 0.07 cs. each

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Universal review
Port Louis, Imprimerie Commerciale.
Special number.

Vartman
Port Louis, Jyoti-Press.
nos. 1–14 Sept.–Dec.

Vie catholique, La
Port Louis, Imprimerie Co-opérative Père Laval Ltée.
24th year, nos. 1–50 Jan.–Dec. R. 0.10 cs. each

Voir
Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd.
nos. 1, 2 June–July R. 0.50 cs. each

Voix de l'Islam, La
Rose Hill, Shiva Mayam Printing.
2nd year, nos. 23, 24 Feb.
3rd year, nos. 1–17 Mar.–Dec. R. 0.10 cs. each

Zamana
Port Louis, B. Bucktowarsingh.
5th year, nos. 122–135 Jan.–July.
6th year, nos. 136–147 July–Dec.

NEWSPAPERS

(ISSUED MORE THAN ONCE A WEEK)

Advance
Port Louis, The Mauritius Free Press Service Cy. Ltd.
nos. 3631–3913 Jan.–Dec.

Après-midi, L'
Port Louis, Raoul Rivet.
nos. 9434–9690 Jan.–Dec.

Cernéen, Le
Port Louis, La Presse Mauricienne Ltée.
nos. 994–1285 Jan.–Dec.

China times
Port Louis, Ng Man Hing.
nos. 1–18 December.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Chinese commercial paper, The
Port Louis, Yoo Foo.
nos. 6712–7003 Mar.–Dec.

Chinese daily news, The
Port Louis, Li Pak U.
nos. 6002–6290 Jan.–Dec.

Government gazette of the Colony of Mauritius, The
Port Louis, The Government Printer.
nos. 1–84 Jan.–Dec.

Janata
Port Louis, The Mauritius Free Press Service Cy. Ltd.
nos. 480–561 Feb. Dec.

Latest news
Rose Hill, Ww. W. J. Hay.
September–December.

Mauricien, Le
Port Louis, Raoul Rivet.
nos. 967—(1185) Jan.–Sept.
October–December.

New era, The
Port Louis, *processed.*
nos. 862623–862718 Jan.–Mar.
1 Apr.–15 May.
July–December.

YEAR BOOKS

Annuaire mondial des journaux, radios, éditeurs, écrivains et associations culturelles de langue française hors de France
Port Louis, Standard Printing Establishment.
1953.

Chronique du turf, La
Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.
1952.

Mauritius Police magazine, The
Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd.
no. 1 Xmas 1953. Rs. 2.00 p.a.

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Note regarding the Map opposite

Since the Map was compiled and drawn the following parts of the Railway line have been dismantled and removed :—

North—The Montagne Longue Branch Line from Terre Rouge to Montagne Longne

West—The Black River Line from Coromandel to Tamarin

East—The section of the Moka Line from Montagne Blanche to its junction with the North Line.

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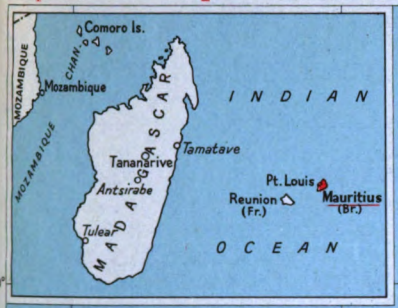

1 57°20' 2 57°30' 3 57°40' 4

A B C D E

20° 20°10' 20°20' 20°30'

Round I.
Flat I.
Gabriel I.
Gunners Quoin
C. Malheureux
Grand Bay
RIVIÈRE DU REMPART
Gde Gaube
Amber I.
Poudre D'or
Mapou
PAMPLEMOUSSES
Pamplemousses
Rivière du Rempart
Mt PITON 874
Terre Rouge
Richelterres
Roche Bois
Mt Longue
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Grand River B.
PORT LOUIS
Mt CALEBASSES 2066
PITON DU PIETER-BOTH 2690
THE POUCE 2681
Cormandel
Vallées
Ripailleau
Petite Rivière
Petite Riviere B.
Albion
Beau Bassin
Rose Hill
Réduit
Moka
St Pierre
Quartier Militaire
Verdun
Trou d'Eau Douce
Flacq
Argy
Medine
Quatre Bornes
Phoenix
PLAINES WILHEMS
MOKA
Mt DU REMPART 2332
Tamarin
Tamarin Bay
Black River B.
Curepipe
PITON DU MILIEU 1923
Midlands
Mt LAGRAVE 2493
Tressangles
Mt BLANCHE 1742
Bel Air
Grand River S.E.
BAMBOU Mts
PORT LOUIS
Mareaux Vacoas
Nouvelle France
Cluny
Mt CREOLES 1211
Mahébourg
Fouquets I.
I. de la Passe
Entrance
Rose Belle
Le Chaux
Morne I.
BLACK RIV. GORGES
PITON DE LA PETITE RIVIÈRE NOIRE 2711
Bois Cheri
Rivière du Poste
Mare d'Albert
Union Vale
Blue Bay
LE MORNE BRABANT 1800
MT. SAVANNE 2314
Baie du Cap
Choisy
Ruisseau Créole
Chemin Grenier
Souillac
R. des Anguilles
Brocus I.
Jacotet Bay
Miles
5 4 3 2 1 0 5
Boundaries, District
Railways
Principal Roads
Other "
Administrative Headquarters are underlined in red
Heights in Feet
57°20' 57°30' Longitude East of Greenwich 57°40'

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PART I

Review of the Year 1954

The tenure of office of Sir Hilary Blood, as Governor of Mauritius, came to an end on the 11th January when he left the colony with Lady Blood. On the 22nd March, Sir Robert Scott, C.M.G., assumed office as Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Mr. Robert Newton, C.M.G., arrived in the colony in January to take up his appointment as Colonial Secretary in place of Mr. J. D. Harford, C.M.G., who had been appointed Governor and Commander-in-Chief of St. Helena.

The Right Honourable the Earl of Munster, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for the Colonies, visited the Colony from the 8th to the 18th June in order to acquaint himself at first hand with the island and its problems. Lord Munster saw something of the work of the Legislative Council and met individual members of both the Legislative and the Executive Councils. During the course of a crowded visit he was able to see most important aspects of Mauritian life and to meet representatives of all classes and communities. It was the first time since the visit of the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava in 1938 that Mauritius had played host to a Minister.

Mr. W. A. Muller, C.M.G., Inspector General of Colonial Police, visited Mauritius from the 16th to the 24th August in the course of a tour of inspection.

The thirteen days' visit of Sir Geoffrey Clay, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C., Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State, in November provided a welcome opportunity to obtain advice on policy and the organisational problems of an island so vitally dependent on agriculture. Sir Geoffrey Clay made an intensive tour of the island and saw all the important lines of agricultural development, particularly the research activities financed by the sugar industry and the promising tea industry.

General Sir George W. E. J. Erskine, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., Commander-in-Chief East Africa, visited Mauritius in May.

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Other visitors of note were Mr. Roger Norton, representative of the Colonial Development Corporation, who paid a short visit early in December to discuss development possibilities ; Miss Joan Whittington, Director of the Overseas Branches of the British Red Cross ; and Dr. Le Roux, Lecturer in Helminthology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Her Majesty was graciously pleased to approve the following appointments on the occasion of the New Year and on her Birthday.

NEW YEAR HONOURS

Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

WILLIAM ALLAN, O.B.E., B.Sc.—Director of Agriculture.

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

ROBERT THOMAS STEVENS, M.B.E.—Director of Electricity and Telephones.

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

ANDRÉ D'EMMEREZ DE CHARMOY—Executive Officer, Food Production Board.

LOUIS BAISSAC—Island President, British Red Cross Society.

British Empire Medal (Civil)

JIWAN BHIMA—Principal Officer, Prisons.

King's Police Medal

NEIL PATRICK HADOW, C.P.M.,—Commissioner of Police.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St. George

SIR ROBERT SCOTT, C.M.G.—Governor and Commander-in-Chief of Mauritius and its Dependencies.

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

JAMES STIRLING—Commissioner of Labour.

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

LÉON JOSEPH ELIAS HENNEQUIN—Assistant Railway Accountant

Colonial Police Medal

EMILE PHILIPPE BENJAMIN OHSAN—Police Bandmaster.

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Visiting Ships

H.M.S. *Ceylon*, the Indian Naval Frigate *Tir*, the Submarine *Tudor* and the Frigate *Loch Alvie* visited Mauritius during the year.

Political Scene

The Secretary of State's despatch in reply to the motion presented in the Legislative Council in December, 1953, in the name of the Honourable J. G. Rozemont, President of the Mauritius Labour Party, asking him to receive a delegation in London to discuss constitutional issues, was tabled in the Council in March. Mr. Oliver Lyttelton (now Lord Chandos) replied that he was not clear as to the precise suggestions for constitutional change on which there was a consensus of opinion amongst those who voted for the motion. He asked for further clarification and also for full information as to the views of those sections of the population to whom any changes proposed were not acceptable. For the greater part of the year the Governor was in discussion with the representatives of all the main shades of political opinion in the island. These discussions terminated in December.

Mr. A. M. Osman, O.B.E., nominated member of the Legislative Council, was appointed by the Mauritius Branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to represent Mauritius at the Parliamentary Commonwealth Conference which was held in Nairobi in August.

A brief visit was paid by Members of the Parliaments of Australia and New Zealand in October and informal meetings between them and members of the Legislative Council took place.

Economic Matters

The prosperity of Mauritius has continued to depend on sugar, which with its by-products, accounts for over 99 per cent of its exports. The remarkable freedom from tropical cyclones which the Colony has enjoyed since 1946 continued in 1954, though the near approach of a cyclone in January was a sharp reminder of the essentially precarious basis of the island's prosperity. As a result of generally unfavourable weather conditions, the sugar crop fell short of expectations. The extraction and the sucrose content, although appreciably higher than in 1953, were disappointing. Owing to rainfall above normal during the growth period, there was a fall in the tonnage of canes harvested. The sugar crop reached 498,568 metric tons, a reduction in the record figure of 512,076 metric tons for 1953.

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Under the terms of the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement, the negotiated price for sugar bought within the Commonwealth for 1955 was further reduced to £40-15sh. a ton (against £41 a ton for 1954). It was announced that the Agreement had been extended for a further year and would run to the end of 1962.

Labour relations were generally good throughout 1954. The Mauritius Sugar Producers' Association maintained the Sugar Industry Liaison Officers whose activities now cover the whole island and contributed to the good relations prevailing betweeen management and labour.

Tea production increased considerably during the year.

The Central Electricity Board had a difficult year and a combination of increasing demand and low rainfall in the early part of the year led to temporary restrictions on the consumption of electricity.

During the year, the Government entered into an agreement with the Government of the Union of Burma for the supply of rice to Mauritius during the period 1954–57.

Total imports were valued at Rs. 214,359,355 and exports at Rs. 260,110,507.

The financial year showed an excess of revenue over expenditure amounting to almost Rs. 3,734,000.

On the 31st December, a representative Fiscal Committee was appointed to review all forms of taxation in force in the Colony. The terms of reference were:—

> " To review all forms of taxation, both direct and indirect, now in force in the Colony and, having particularly in mind the extent to which the value of money has fallen during the past decade, to make recommendations for such adjustments as appear necessary to secure the equitable distribution of the burden of taxation generally with a view to ensuring that the present level of Government revenues as a proportion of national income may be maintained with the least discouragement to the agriculture, commerce, industry and trade of the Colony upon which the national income depends, in order thereby to protect the interests of all sections of the community especially those for which services are provided from general revenue, and which would be detrimentally affected by a decline in the national income."

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The first instalment of a loan of Rs. 50,000,000 was floated on the local market to raise funds for financing development projects. The issue was oversubscribed.

For the first time in seven years of prosperity, the national income for the Colony declined as a result of the lower price for sugar and the growth of the population.

A trade mission headed by Mr. McClintock and sponsored by the Department of Commerce and Agriculture of the Commonwealth of Australia, paid a short visit to Mauritius on its return from Africa to Australia. Members of the mission were received by the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce.

A report on the improvement of harbour facilities in Port Louis by Messrs. Coode and Partners was laid on the table of the Legislative Council and is now under examination.

The rationalisation of the privately-owned bus industry, which was begun in 1953, continued during 1954 with the encouragement of Government. Bus services have been arranged on many new routes, including urban networks. The number of bus passengers increased during the year by about ten thousand.

A dispute between the Bus Drivers' and Conductors' Union and the newly formed bus companies culminated in a short-lived strike in August.

With the extension of the bus routes the railway passenger services on the Moka and Savanne lines were closed in February and June respectively. The Mauritius Government Railway still remains the backbone of the conveyance of sugar and heavy goods and the transport of sugar and heavy goods is reserved to the Railway.

In January, however, a committee was appointed by the Chamber of Agriculture, in consultation with the Government, to study the transport of sugar and heavy goods in the Colony and reached the conclusion that road transport would be more economic. The Committee accordingly recommended that the road network should be improved and the Railway closed down. The carriage of the remaining rail passengers by road was not expected to present any insuperable difficulty. The future of the Railway is accordingly under consideration.

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Meanwhile, in April an Ordinance was passed by Legislative Council to allow St. Felix Sugar Estate to transport its sugar crop and other heavy goods by road as an experiment designed to provide experience of the merits of road transport in local conditions.

Social Developments

The continued prosperity of the Colony during 1954 enabled further progress to be made in the Social Services. Four new primary schools were built during the year, providing places for 1,584 children. A programme for the development of education over the five year period 1955–60 is under consideration.

The striking improvement in health conditions during the past few years, mainly due to the progressive elimination of malaria, continued. The death rate again showed a downward trend, despite an outbreak of gastro-enteritis affecting infants.

Improved supplies of materials and the completion of the Piton du Milieu reservoir greatly helped in the execution of domestic water supply schemes which will make a domestic water supply system available throughout the greater part of the island.

Building continued at a high rate throughout the Island with a gradual improvement in design and technique. During the year the Town Planning Ordinance became law and the Town Planning Board held its first meeting. The Municipality of Port Louis and the three Town Councils continued with their housing schemes. A further experiment in rural housing, financed by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund, was made in the north: the Governor opened the estate.

Development Programme

The rate of expenditure under the Ten Year Development and Welfare Plan has been steadily increasing as shown in the statement below:—

Financial Year	*Total (million rupees)*	*Sources of Finance*		
		C.D. & W. Funds	*Local Funds*	*Loan Funds*
1949–50 ...	5·7	1·1	1·9	2·7
1950–51 ...	7·8	1·0	2·5	4·3
1951–52 ...	9·3	4·6	2·0	2·7
1952–53 ...	15·0	5·1	2·6	7·3
1953–54 ...	16·2	4·6	2·6	8·8

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Progress in 1954 on the main items of the plan may be summarised as:—

Agriculture: Establishment of a fresh water fish farming scheme at Belle Rive to experiment on the reproduction of the Tilapia Melanopleura ; continuation of the Government tea plantations at Wooton and Midlands ; the completion of the building programme for the Government Stock Breeding Station at Palmar ; animal husbandry experiments ; continuation of work on pilot land settlement schemes at Terre Rouge and Richelieu.

Health: The malaria eradication scheme having been completed and the incidence of malaria fallen to negligible proportions, only entomological research works were continued during the year.

Water Supplies: Completion of the Magenta Irrigation Canal and Piton du Milieu Reservoir ; extension of the Mare aux Vacoas Scheme, construction of service reservoirs, filters and the laying of new pipe-lines.

Forestry: Continuation of the forestry replanting programme which is financed in part from a grant of £70,000 from C.D. and W. funds.

Further financial details of the Development Plan are given in Appendix I.

The Development and Welfare Plan is being reviewed and reallocations of resources are being made in the light of practical experience of costs and needs.

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PART II

Chapter I—Population

A Census of the population which was taken during the night of the 28th—29th June, 1952, gave the following results:—

Males	252,032
Females ...	249,383
TOTAL ...	501,415

The population of Mauritius as at the 31st December, 1954, was estimated therefrom at 539,000, exclusive of the members of the Royal Pioneer Corps who were in military employment overseas.

The natural increase, that is the excess of births over deaths, in 1954, was 13,464, a number which is about 5 times the corresponding average for the five prewar years (1935–1939).

Civilian departures from the Colony exceeded the arrivals by 61.

The average density of population for the whole island was 737 per square mile (calculated on the mid-year population).

BIRTHS

(a) The number of live births during the year 1954 was 21,926, a decrease of 1,970 on the number for 1953. It represented an increase of 1,575 on the yearly average number of births for the decennial period ending with 1953:—

Males	*Females*	*Total*	*Male births per 1,000 female births*
10,957	10,969	21,926	999

The following are the birth rates (per 1,000 of the mid-year population) for the last five years:—

1950	49·7
1951	47·5
1952	48·1
1953	46·3
1954	41·3

(b) Still births, which are not included as either births or deaths, numbered 1,358 (753 males and 605 females) corresponding to a rate of 6·2 per hundred live births. During the year 1953, there were 1,568 still births corresponding to a rate of 6·6.

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Deaths

Deaths registered in Mauritius numbered 8,462 corresponding to a rate of 16 per 1,000 of the population. The month of maximum mortality was October with 867 deaths. In 1953 the highest figure recorded was 844 in August, as against 742 in July 1952.

	Males	*Females*
No. of deaths in 1954	4,214	4,248
Rate per 1,000 of population ...	15·9	16·0

The average death rate for the period 1945–1954 was 20·2.

Infantile Mortality

Infantile mortality was this year lower than in 1953 and still considerably lower than in the quinquennial period 1944–48.

The following table shows the rate for the past five years.

Year	*Rate*
1944—1948 (average)	154·9
1950	76·3
1951	83·5
1952	80·8
1953	93·5
1954	81·1

Marriages

The following table gives the number of marriages for the last five years:—

Year	*1950*	*1951*	*1952*	*1953*	*1954*
No. of marriages ...	3,050	3,080	4,094	3,473	3,092

Movement of the Civil Population*

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Arrivals ...	4,728	2,523	7,251
Departures ...	4,824	2,488	7,312

*Includes :—

(*a*) the very small figure of engaged or discharged seamen ;

(*b*) emigrants and immigrants to and from the dependencies but does not include movements of troops and locally enlisted servicemen.

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Chapter 2—Occupations, Wages and Labour Organisation

EMPLOYMENT

The total number of gainfully occupied persons was estimated to be approximately 164,000, of whom 45% were agricultural workers. In 1954, the number of workers employed by each of the industries was as follows as compared with 1953:—

	1953				*1954*			
	Men	*Women*	*Juveniles*	*Total*	*Men*	*Women*	*Juveniles*	*Total*
(*a*) *Sugar Industry*	37,763	13,148	3,227	54,138	37,146	13,047	2,940	53,133
(*b*) *Public Services*—								
Government Departments	9,039	213	126	9,378	6,975	494	93	7,562
Town Councils	353	55	29	437	514	44	7	565
(*c*) *Other Industries*—								
Aloe Fibre...	501	784	98	1,383	586	1,034	70	1,690
Aerated Water Works	81	42	—	123	81	38	11	130
Bakeries	468	—	—	468	474	—	—	474
Building Contractors	1,071	23	—	1,094	1,260	—	22	1,282
Cigarette Manufactories	83	138	3	224	78	144	3	225
Compounders	73	—	—	73	78	—	—	78
Distilleries	233	—	20	253	166	—	15	181

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	1953				1954			
	Men	*Women*	*Juveniles*	*Total*	*Men*	*Women*	*Juveniles*	*Total*
(c) *Other Industries—contd.*								
Docks	1,274	10	14	1,298	1,228	8	14	1,250
Electricity	377	—	30	407	377	—	30	407
Jewellery	206	—	135	341	219	—	134	353
Lime Kilns	347	267	33	647	345	264	5	614
Match Manufactories	15	23	—	38	12	20	4	36
Oil Industry	64	—	—	64	36	—	—	36
Printing Establishment	195	—	45	240	236	—	49	285
Salt Pans	40	40	6	86	50	44	6	100
Saw Mills	174	—	—	174	175	—	—	175
Shoe-making (Big Shops)	221	30	150	401	230	—	181	411
Stevedoring Companies	660	—	—	660	648	—	—	648
Tanneries	36	—	—	36	28	—	—	28
Tea Industry	506	565	436	1,507	508	590	363	1,461
Tobacco	847	849	417	2,113	827	805	393	2,025
Wine Industries	271	140	33	444	216	161	—	377
Workshops (Motor)	437	—	181	618	490	—	207	697
Workshops (Other)	849	3	64	916	795	—	40	835
Bus Coach Builders	114	—	19	133	135	—	22	135
	56,298	16,330	5,066	77,694	53,913	16,693	4,587	75.193

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The difference between the total figure shown above and the total figure detailed in the list is made up of self-employed craftsmen, unskilled journeymen, domestic servants, shopkeepers, shop assistants, office workers, etc.

The Sugar Industry, the main industry of the Island, employed on an average 53,133 workers in 1954. The seasonal fluctuation in this industry between the average inter-harvest employment and average harvest employment amounted to 17·1 per cent as shown by the following figures:—

	During inter-crop		*During crop*	
Artisans and drivers ...		4,239		4,421
Labourers :—				
Males	29,298		36,334	
Females	11,747		14,346	
Juveniles	2,860		3,021	
	43,905		53,701	
		48,144		58,122

The secondary industries of the Island, of which the more important are aloe fibre extraction, alcohol distilling from molasses and the manufacture of tea and tobacco, provided employment for some 5,192 skilled workers, 4,086 unskilled men, 3,108 women and some 1,547 juveniles. The public services employed 2,011 skilled workers and 5,478 unskilled men, 538 women and 100 juveniles. The number of persons employed in industries and the public services was registered as 75,193 of whom 11,533 were skilled workers, 42,380 unskilled men, and 21,280 women and juveniles.

The Sugar Industry

The value of the sugar annually exported from Mauritius represents more than 97 per cent of the total value of all exports from the Colony. The sugar industry therefore governs the entire economy of the Island. It embraces not only all those persons directly or indirectly interested in the planting of sugarcane and in the manufacture of sugar and its by-products, and interested in the financing of the cultivation, manufacture and marketing of the product, but also affects, very largely, the public revenue and those classes of people such as merchants and bankers, whose business is mainly connected therewith.

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Much of the estate work is still of a manual nature, though mechanization of field work is being pushed as rapidly as imports of bulldozers, rotary ploughs and tractors permit ; the rocky nature of the soil however makes it extremely unlikely that the industry can ever become fully mechanized.

Other Occupations

Other occupations include the aloe fibre *(Furcraea Gigantea)* industry, which produces fibre for making bags for the sugar industry ; the tea industry, which is at present operating on a comparatively small scale and producing tea for local consumption though an export market is being developed ; tobacco growing ; food crops and the cultivation of vegetables ; and the rearing of milch cows and livestock on a small scale.

Minor industries include fishing, sawmills, garages, workshops, salt pans, lime kilns, furniture manufacture, charcoal burning, match manufacture, the preparation of hides and skins, tanning and boot and shoe manufacture, clothing and shirt manufacture, printing, etc.

Apart from agricultural and industrial occupations, many of the population are employed as clerical workers, and as domestic servants.

There is full employment among agricultural workers during the five months' crop season of the year, but unemployment is occasionally reported amongst this category of workers, in certain areas, at certain times during the remaining period of the year. Efforts are made, through the machinery of the Local Employment Committees, to alleviate unemployment where it exists by the issue of permits to transport labourers by lorry to localities where work is available, and relief work may also be started as a temporary measure. Government Departments employing labour reserve, as far as possible, their major works for the intercrop season. Employers are requested to recruit their labour through the Employment Registration Bureau, and when workers are discharged from employment they are referred to the Bureau to register for re-employment.

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The number of unemployed persons and the number of workers placed for the year 1954 were as follows:—

		Unemployed Persons	*Placings*
1954	January	1,818	250
	February	1,582	394
	March	1,763	498
	April	1,647	360
	May	1,301	381
	June	1,613	200
	July	1,530	334
	August	1,044	263
	September	1,102	563
	October	1,130	359
	November	1,277	239
	December	1,800	234
Average registration per month		1,467	—
Average placings per month.		—	340

1953 Average registration per month 1,188
Average placings per month 418

Migrant Labour

There is no migrant labour problem in Mauritius.

Emigrant Labour

During the year 1954, 102 workers were recruited through the Employment Registration Bureau in accordance with the Free Emigration Regulations No. 156 of 1951 to take up employment in the following countries:—

Madagascar	93
Nyasaland	3
Portuguese East Africa ...	2
Southern Rhodesia	4
	102

The Emigration Regulations 1951 provide as under:—

Section 3

Before leaving the Colony, an emigrant shall obtain an Emigration Certificate from the Regional Controller (Labour Commissioner) of the area in which the emigrant resides, and such certificate shall be granted under the following conditions:—

(1) The emigrant shall have registered at an Employment Regisration Bureau as a person seeking employment.

(2) The emigrant shall have completed a questionnaire in the form set out in the Schedule to these Regulations.

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(3) The Regional Controller shall have satisfied himself, within the means at his disposal, that:—

(a) the proposed contract of service of the emigrant is fair and reasonable, and makes sufficient provision for his dependent relatives in Mauritius ;

(b) the contract of service will be valid in the country of employment ;

(c) the emigrant is aware—

(i) of the general conditions of living in the country of employment ;

(ii) of his rights as a British subject, and

(iii) of the steps to be taken if he should at any time wish to return to Mauritius.

(4) The emigrant shall, if so required by the Regional Controller, submit himself for examination, at Government expense, by a duly qualified medical officer selected in that behalf by the Regional Controller.

(5) The emigrant shall, if so required, submit himself to a trade test under such conditions as the Regional Controller may prescribe, provided that such emigrant may be allowed all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred by him for the purpose of undergoing such test.

Wages

The level of wages is largely determined by the rates prevailing in the sugar industry. In this industry minimum rates of wages for workers of the artisan category (represented by the General Workers' Union) and for labourers (represented by the Mauritius Amalgamated Labourers' Association) are negotiated by collective bargaining between the two unions and the employers' organisation, the Sugar Producers' Association. A trade agreement provides for the cost of living bonus paid to sugar estate workers to fluctuate with the cost of living index prepared by the Labour Department and for a bonus to be paid at the end of the year, based on the size of the crop. The principle of collective bargaining has also been adopted by dock workers, by workers in the electricity supply companies, workers of the artisan category who are members of the General Workers' Union and the respective Employers' organisations. The wages of workers in some other industries are

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thought to be sufficiently protected, in general, by the agreed rates payable in the sugar industry. In certain industries, however, where the trade union organisation is weak and incapable of fully representing the interests of its members, recourse has been had to orders issued under the Minimum Wage Ordinance. Orders of this nature have been issued in respect of workers in the printing trade, messengers in private firms, female factory workers and passenger road transport workers.

Basic wage rates in the sugar and other industries are sub-divided into different categories in accordance with the type of work and the different categories of workers. Typical rates are:—

Sugar Industry

Monthly Employees

Labourers		*Rs c.*
Men	Class I	43.50 per month
Women and Young Persons ...	Class I	28.85 per month
Children...		20.08 per month
Semi-skilled		55.00 to Rs 147 per month

Overtime, sickness allowance, house accommodation, paid holidays, annual leave and maternity allowance are also provided for.

Daily Workers

Labourers :—		*Rs. c.*
Men	Class I ...	2.48 per day
Women and young person ...	Class I ...	1.24 do.
Children	Class I ...	0.69 do.
Semi skilled		2.05 to Rs. 3.45 per day

A cost of living allowance at the rate of 47½ per cent of the basic wage is paid to all employed in the Sugar Industry. An end of crop bonus ranging from ½ month's to 3 months' wages is also granted to all monthly employed persons, depending upon the size of the crop and the price obtained for sugar.

Other Industries

	Rs. c.		*Rs. c.*
Dock workers	92.25	to	223.00 per month
	3.20	,,	8.38 per day
Artisans (Grade II to Grade I) ...	100.00	,,	310.00 per month
	3.50	,,	11.00 per day
Printing workers	3.75	,,	6.50 per day
Shops Assistants	60.00	,,	160.00 per month

The above rates are inclusive of cost of living allowance.

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Hours of Work

In all cases where workers are employed upon a time-basis, the working day is of 8 hours, but where they are employed upon a task or piece work basis it may be only 5 hours. Government office hours are from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m., with a half hour break for lunch. Business offices and many of the shops in Port Louis follow more or less the same practice.

Labour Department—Cost of Living Figure

The Labour Department Cost of Living Index figures for agricultural labourers in the year 1954 were:—

January	152·0	July	149·4
February	153·3	August	149·5
March	153·4	September	149·5
April	152·4	October	150·3
May	151·2	November	151·3
June	151·1	December	151·1

The Labour Department

The Labour Department can trace some link in the past with the office of the Protector of Slaves, for that office was succeeded by the Bureau of the Protector of Immigrants, and, when immigration had ceased, the Poor Law Commissioner occupied the building and also administered the Immigration Law. This law was thoroughly revised in 1878, again in 1922, and again in 1938. The same year an Ordinance legalised the existence of industrial associations and the Director of Labour was given certain powers for regulating the settlement of industrial disputes. The Labour Ordinance 1938 provided for the appointment of a Director of Labour and staff in order to " perform all duties imposed and exercise all powers conferred " on him by this Ordinance. The title of Director of Labour was later amended to that of Labour Commissioner.

The Labour Commissioner is an overseas officer, the Deputy Labour Commissioner and the two Assistant Commissioners and the rest of the staff are local officers. The field staff consists of thirteen Labour Officers, including one woman officer who is particularly responsible for estate housing conditions.

Amongst the senior officers, duties are divided functionally, i.e. conciliation, trade union relations and enforcement of safety, health and welfare provisions. Amongst the junior officers, duties are divided territorially, and they are responsible under the senior officer to whom they are attached for whatever duties are allotted

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to them in their particular districts. These district Labour Officers, each of whom is required to follow a Labour Officers' Training Course in the United Kingdom perform a most important task, being in close and continuous contact with the mass of the workers, and helping the individual worker to understand and make use of the Labour Laws.

Inspection of camps and factories is regular and thorough. Careful reports are prepared, and copies of the relevant portions are sent to the employers concerned, with a request for early action. These letters are followed up by further inspections and a warning of prosecution if no action is taken by the employer. The number of factories registered has also increased considerably.

Many sugar estates house part of their labour force on the estate, and a group of such lodgings is called a camp. Under the Labour Ordinance the state of these camps must not fall below a certain standard, and it is the duty of the Labour Department to inspect the camps at regular intervals.

Safety, Health and Welfare

The Safety, Health and Welfare Branch of the Labour Department is under the charge of an Assistant Labour Commissioner with a staff of three Labour Officers and one Labour Inspector.

(1) Three Factory Inspectors (including one woman) are charged with the inspection of factories and machinery—to ensure the safety, health and welfare of employees under the Factory Ordinance 1946. These officers enforce:—

(a) the general safety provisions regarding fencing of machinery, hoists, vessels containing dangerous liquids, floors and stairs, dangerous fumes in confined spaces, inflammable dust, vapours and substances, fires, steam boilers, steam and air receivers, chains, cranes and lifting tackles ;

(b) the general health provisions dealing with cleanliness, overcrowding, cubic space, temperature, ventilation, lighting, drainage and sanitary conveniences ;

(c) the general welfare provisions dealing with messrooms, cloakrooms, washing facilities, wholesome drinking water, sitting facilities and first aid arrangements ;

(d) the general provisions of Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (No. 13 of 1931 and subsequent amendments), and

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(e) the provisions of the Women, Young Persons, and Children Ordinance No. 37 of 1934 regarding night work of Women and Young Persons employed in Industry and the minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment.

(2) Three Camp Welfare Inspectors (who are also Factory Inspectors) are charged with the inspection of quarters of workers housed by employers and the inspection of estate dispensaries and hospitals where these workers are given free medical attention under the provisions of the Labour Ordinance No. 47 of 1938.

These Officers enforce the housing regulations dealing with size of rooms, their openings, kitchens, bathroom and latrine accommodation, water-supply, camp yard sanitation, overcrowding and payment of maternity benefits to employed women in confinement cases.

Efforts are also made by this branch of the Department under the provisions of the Shop Hours' Ordinance No. 3 of 1942 and No. 56 of 1945, to ensure the health and welfare of all the shop-employees of the Island in so far as weekly half-holiday, ventilation, temperature, lighting, sitting facilities, washing facilities, sanitary conveniences, messrooms, meal times are concerned.

A Safety, Health and Welfare Committee has been appointed and meets from time to time for the discussion of relevant measures.

Industrial Training

Apprenticeship schemes: The Apprenticeship Ordinance 1946 provides for the regulation of employment of apprentices and under this Ordinance, the heavy Engineering Trade, the Automobile repairs and the Printing Industry have been designated.

Apprenticeship Committees meet periodically for the discussion of questions dealing with apprentices and their welfare.

The Employment Registration Bureau, which was opened at the beginning of the year 1949, is organized in three main centres and ten sub-centres. The Manager of the Bureau is also the Statistician of the Labour Department.

The Employment Branch of the Reabsorption Office which was responsible for the resettlement of ex-servicemen has now been amalgamated with the Employment Registration Bureau. The Bureau has now on its staff two placing officers, three interviewing officers, two travelling interviewing officers, and twelve clerks.

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The purpose of the Bureau is to put employers seeking workers in touch with workers seeking employment. The worker is classified on the basis of an evaluation of all his occupational qualifications as shown by work-experience, training and personal characteristics ; workers may also be trade-tested whenever and wherever necessary and are graded accordingly. Vocational guidance is given to certain categories, especially to demobilised ex-servicemen.

Government department vacancies which are not filled by advertisement and a Board of Selection, are filled by the Employment Registration Bureau.

Industrial Organisations

There were at the end of the year 41 associations of Trade Unions composed of 18 associations of employees, (including one General Workers Union in Rodrigues), 6 of employers, 14 of Government Servants and 3 of persons either working for themselves or hiring out their services. The total membership on the rolls is given as 33,715 of which 16,350 are paid up members. Two associations are in a dormant state.

The most important workers' organisations are:—

	No. shown on roll	*No. who have ceased to be members*	*No. of members on 31.12.54*
Sugar Industry Staff Employees Association ...	565	—	565
General Port and Harbour Workers' Union ...	2,053	74	1,959
Mauritius Government Manual Workers' Union	1,352	207	1,145
General Workers' Union	3,964	2,725	1,269
Government Servants' and Employees' Association...	1,985	223	1,762
Railway Workers' Union	870	534	336
Government Teachers' Union	359	265	94
Aided Primary School Teachers' Union ...	463	101	362
Mauritius Amalgamated Labourers' Association...	11,970	6,339	5,631
Senior Professional Civil Servants' Association	91	9	82
Mauritius Agricultural Workers' Union ...	5,322	3,622	1,700

The most important employers' organisations are:—

	No. of members on 31.12.54
Sugar Producers' Association	29
Federation of Port and Harbour Employers ...	12
Tobacco Producers' Syndicate	55
Planters' Association	410

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There was one labour stoppage in the bus transport industry in 1954 in which 34 drivers and 22 bus conductors did not work. This lasted from the 9th August to the 12th August, 1954.

All minor disputes were settled amicably, almost invariably on the advice of Labour Officers.

Legislation

The main legislation affecting labour relations is set out below:—

The Labour Ordinance	No. 47 of 1938
The Labour (Amendment) Ordinance	No. 33 of 1952
The Women and Young Persons and Children Ordinance	No. 37 of 1934, No. 16 of 1935, No. 43 of 1945, No. 5 of 1952
The Factories Ordinance	No. 42 of 1946
The Shops Hours Ordinance	No. 3 of 1942 No. 56 of 1945 No. 72 of 1946
The Shops (Amendment) Ordinance	No. 9 of 1952
The Industrial Associations Ordinance ...	No. 7 of 1938
The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance ...	No. 13 of 1931 as variously amended, No. 64 of 1947 and No. 78 of 1952
The Employment Exchange Ordinance ...	No. 67 of 1947
The Trade Disputes Ordinance...	No. 68 of 1947
The Minimum Wages Ordinance	No. 36 of 1950
The Apprenticeship Ordinance...	No. 13 of 1946
The Recruitment of Workers Ordinance ...	No. 3 of 1938
The Emigration Ordinance	No 12 of 1933 G.N. 156 of 1951
The Printing Workers (Minimum Wage Order)	No. 136 of 1952 No. 172 of 1953
The Minimum Wages Order—Messengers ...	G.N. No. 4 of 1953
The Minimum Wages Order—Female Factory Workers	G.N. No. 27 of 1953
The Minimum Wages Order—Bus Drivers and Conductors	G.N. No. 173 of 1953

The Ex-Servicemen's Welfare Fund Committee

This Committee is responsible for the distribution of approximately Rs 400,000 annually with the object of resettling ex-servicemen in civil life. Help is limited to those who served in the Forces during the war years, but there are still about 10,000 ex-servicemen who qualify as applicants. Help usually takes the form of providing tools, paying off debts, and payment of cost of transport to find work. Payments for medical benefits not obtainable from the Government hospitals and for retraining and similar purposes are also made.

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Chapter 3—Public Finance and Taxation

Revenue and Expenditure

The following tables give a comparison under the main Heads of Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the years ended the 30th June, 1939, 1953 and 1954.

Revenue

Main Head	Year ended the 30th June		
	1939	*1953*	*1954*
	Rs	*Rs*	*Rs*
1. Customs	5,902,101	21,615,749	24,841,767
2. Port, Harbour and Light Dues ...	549,500	1,539,741	1,615,674
3. Licences, Excise and Internal Revenue not otherwise classified	6,510,242	23,360,105	26,220,016
4. Income Tax	—	29,819,598	30,867,742
5. Fees of Court or Office and payments for Specific Services ...	851,782	4,214,066	4,271,327
6. Reimbursements	1,446,273	3,454,385	3,795,338
7. Rent of Government Properties ...	229,220	474,079	493,301
8. Interest	486,474	1,488,597	1,401,790
9. Miscellaneous Receipts	328,054	2,082,356	1,644,956
10. Posts and Telegraphs	370,610	1,074,740	1,565,143
11. Land Sales	329	—	—
12. Special Revenue	788,462	857,091	1,004,358
13. Railways	371,933	25,681	57,092
15. Colonial Development Fund ...	15,858	—	—
Total	17,850,838	90,006,188	97,778,504

Expenditure

Main Head	Year ended the 30th June		
	1939	*1953*	*1954*
	Rs.	*Rs.*	*Rs.*
1. Public Debt	2,292,014	3,165,115	2,628,053
2. Pensions and Gratuities	1,695,428	6,219,962	9,667,633
3. Governor	82,659	193,197	230,155
4. Accountant General	197,112	521,235	495,175
5. Agriculture	542,286	2,035,488	2,150,837
6. Audit	79,185	254,728	221,971
7. Central Administration	88,893	1,189,173	1,138,593
8. Central Statistical Office	—	191,488	149,847
9. Civil Aviation...	—	539,084	419,765

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EXPENDITURE—*continued*

Main Head	*Year ended the 30th June*		
	1939	*1953*	*1954*
	Rs.	*Rs.*	*Rs.*
10. Customs and Excise	—	1,442,917	1,431,644
10a. Customs, Harbour, Port and Marine	613,206	—	—
11. Development and Welfare	—	500,000	500,000
12. District Administration	—	167,149	152,451
13. Ecclesiastical	211,914	423,488	408,347
14. Education	1,441,412	12,124,582	12,374,849
15. Electricity and Telephones	178,248	2,970,402	1,648,936
16. Fire Services	—	557,560	491,834
17. Forests	203,331	2,249,798	2,439,944
18. Granary	79,421	267,841	270,755
19. Harbour and Quays	—	2,185,536	2,147,328
20. Health	1,477,202	8,407,699	11,676,674
21. Income Tax	—	322,339	325,310
22. Judicial	402,390	1,173,577	1,143,645
23. Labour	770,307	437,246	414,383
24. Legal	99,564	215,697	162,953
25. Legislature	12,889	674,613	466,613
26. Mauritius Institute	17,115	109,919	86,786
27. Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force ...	—	105,867	121,259
28. Military	935,903	1,007,442	1,008,468
29. Miscellaneous	1,107,217	2,575,216	2,419,787
30. Observatory	41,543	282,716	248,947
31. Police	970,903	5,168,684	5,131,297
32. Posts and Telegraphs	322,521	1,917,748	1,744,652
33. Printing Office	107,772	649,242	597,143
34. Prisons and Industrial School ...	178,741	1,076,863	1,096,407
35. Public Assistance	—	3,103,863	3,028,162
36. Public Works and Surveys	340,007	2,525,685	4,009,083
37. Public Works Annually Recurrent Expenditure	1,039,379	6,157,050	4,880,996
38. Public Works Non-Recurrent ...	228,204	4,557,323	4,768,130
39. Railways	765,444	2,699,284	2,500,837
40. Registrar General	113,897	293,292	262,769
41. Social Welfare	—	–	327,440
42. Special Expenditure	6,788,462	643,689	1,878,247
43. Subventions	—	1,727,044	1,645,566
44. Emergency Services	—	5,889,975	5,130,882
45. Development and Welfare :—			
Municipal	398,317	—	—
Harbour	143,755	—	—
Industrial School	34,298	—	—
Loan Redemption	—	9,238	—
TOTAL ...	24,000,939	88,930,054	94,044,553

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Public Debt

The Public Debt of the Colony on the 30th June, 1954, was Rs 61,792,677. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of Rs. 7,026,492.

Local loan issues accounted for Rs 13,489,500 of the Public Debt as detailed below:—

Agricultural Loan (No. 1) 1937	1,660,000
Agricultural Loan (No. 2) 1937	1,600,000
Mauritius War Loan, 1941	4,000,000
Mauritius Loan 1961	3,157,500
Mauritius Development and Welfare Loan 1971–81 ...	3,072,000
Rs.	13,489,500

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

(Omitting Special Funds deposited in the Public Treasury)

Liabilities		Assets		
	Rs		*Rs*	*Rs*
Other Governments ...	232,263	Advances		26,147,114
Deposits	3,013,669	Cash Balance etc.	9,255,721	
Mauritius Development and Welfare Fund ...	1,016,715	Investments ...	23,306,286	
Joint Colonial Fund ...	5,253,333		32,562,007	
Loan Funds unexpended	78,250	Deduct balances of Special Funds etc. in the hands of the Accountant General ...	7,220,188	
Reserve Fund	12,000,000			25,341,819
General Revenue Balance	29,894,703			
	51,488,933			51,488,933

Main Heads of Taxation and Their Yield

Customs :—	*1952–53*	*1953–54*
	Rs	*Rs*
Import Duties	21,105,982	24,724,847
Export Duties	57,675	116,920
Excise duty on rum	7,824,540	8,878,371
Tobacco Excise	4,942,383	4,763,107
Licence Duties	4,513,259	4,668,766
Income Tax (Individuals)	12,030,241	12,284,948
Companies Tax	17,770,037	18,582,794
Tax on Sweepstakes and Lotteries ...	1,158,924	1,188,940

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THE NATIONAL INCOME FOR 1953 WAS CALCULATED BY THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE TO BE RS. 583,000,000

Details of calculation are as follows :—

Net National Product Industrial Origin	*Rs (millions)*	%
1. Agriculture, forestry, hunting and fishing ...	189	32·4
2. Mining and quarrying	—	—
3. Manufacturing ...	133	22·8
4. Construction	23	4·0
5. Electricity, water and sanitary services ...	4	0·7
6. Transportation, storage and communication ...	101	17·3
7. Wholesale and retail trade	50	8·6
8. Banking, insurance and real estate ...	7	1·2
9. Ownership of dwellings	34	5·8
10. Public administration and defence ...	20	3·4
11. Services	46	7·9
12. Gross Domestic Product at factor cost ...	607	104·1
13. Less Provision for the consumption of fixed capital	−31	−5·3
14. Net Domestic Product at factor cost	576	98·8
15. Plus Net factor income from the rest of the world	+7	+1·2
16. NET NATIONAL PRODUCT AT FACTOR COST	583	100·0

National Income Distribution	*Rs (millions)*	%
1. Compensation of employees	302	51·8
2. Incomes from farms, professions and other unincorporated enterprises received by households	112	19·2
3. Income from property received by households and private non-profit institutions	111	19·0
4. Saving of corporations...	28	4·8
5. General Government income from property and entrepreneurship...	15	2·6
6. Direct taxes on corporations	19	3·3
	587	100·7
7. Less Interest on public debt	−3	−0·5
8. Less Interest on consumer's debt	−1	−0·2
9. NATIONAL INCOME ...	583	100·0

Net National Expenditure Composition	*Rs (millions)*	%
1. Private consumption expenditure on goods and services	433	74·3
2. General Government consumption expenditure on goods and services	77	13·2
3. Net domestic fixed capital formation of private enterprises	48	8·2
4. Net domestic fixed capital formation of Government and public enterprises	23	4·0
5. Net exports of goods and services	41	7·0
6. Net factor income payments from rest of the world	7	1·2
7. Net National Expenditure at market prices ...	629	107·9
8. Less Indirect taxes ...	−50	−8·6
9. Plus Subsidies	+ 4	+0·7
10. NET NATIONAL EXPENDITURE AT FACTOR COST	583	100·0

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Comparative Figures of National Income Growth

Year	National Income Rs*	Increase Rs*	Increase %	Resident Population December 31 in each Year	National Income per capita Rs†	National Income per capita Increase %
1948 ...	298	—	—	441,540	674·9	—
1949 ...	357	59	19·8	456,717	781·7	15·8
1950 ...	409	52	14·6	475,386	860·4	10·1
1951 ..	465	56	13·7	494,519	940·3	9·3
1952 ...	518	53	11·4	509,807	1,016·1	8·1
1953 ...	583	65	12·5	524,867	1,110·8	9·3

Customs Tariff

During 1954 the Customs Tariff Ordinance based on the Standard International Trade Classification was promulgated. The first Schedule to this Tariff comprises three main sections: (i) Import duties, (ii) Exemptions, (iii) Export duties. Import duty is levied under 823 main items and is calculated on an *ad valorem* or a specific basis according to the nature of the article. Provision is made in a number of cases for the imposition of a preferential tariff on goods produced or manufactured in the United Kingdom and certain other territories, but admision of the goods to preference is dependent on the production of certain supporting evidence including prescribed certificates of origin and value. In the absence of this information, the general tariff rate is charged. Item 899–99.9 imposes a general *ad valorem* duty of 12·5 per cent on all goods not elsewhere specified or not specifically exempted.

The schedule of exemptions contains 29 items and covers the majority of articles normally granted free importation into other colonies.

Export duties are levied on sugar and molasses, and in addition there are small duties imposed on goods exported from bond, goods in transit, and goods reshipped after being landed from distressed vessels.

Excise Duties

Excise duties are leviable on Colonial Spirits (rum), country liquor (Mauritius Fruit Wine), tobacco, matches, denatured spirits (except for power purposes), vinegar, tinctures and drugs, and perfumed spirits. The consumption of rum during the year showed an appreciable decrease but the revenue derived was slightly higher than in the previous year owing to the increase of the Excise duty.

* In million Rupees

† In Rupees

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The revenue collected during the year in respect of country liquor continued to fall in spite of an increase of the Excise duty. This might be ascribed to the availability of rum which was formerly restricted to 1,000,000 litres per annum and to an increased consumption of imported wines by the population.

Package Tax

With effect from the 29th June, 1951, a package tax was levied under Ordinance No. 32 of 1951 on all goods shown in the first schedule thereof imported and landed at any port in the Colony.

Subject to a minimum of twenty-five cents on every consignment, the rates vary from Re 0.05 per 100 on bricks, slates, etc., to Rs 10.00 each on motor vehicles, from Re 0.05 per 1000 kilos on coal, coke, etc., to Rs 3.00 per 1,000 kilos on machinery and certain metal manufactures. A large range of manufactured goods is leviable at Re 1.00 per package while another large range is leviable at one per cent *ad valorem*.

Exemption was given in the second schedule to nineteen items including duty free household effects and personal effects, certain important foodstuffs, earthenware and cement pipes, fertilizers, newsprint and empty containers.

Stamp Duties

Stamp duties are of three kinds:—

Schedule A to the Stamps (Consolidation) Ordinance, 1926, specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a duty in proportion to the size of paper used. The tariff ranges from Re 0.30 to Rs 1.80.

Schedule B specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a fixed stamp duty. The amounts vary from Re 0.05 to Rs 15.00.

Schedule C specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to an *ad valorem* duty. These include Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Policies of Insurance, Debentures. The duties are mainly on a sliding scale.

The stamp duties collected in respect of impressed paper during the financial year 1953–54 amounted to Rs 616,404.60.

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Income Tax

Full income tax is imposed by the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance (No. 84 of 1950).

The rate of tax applicable to companies is 40 per cent of the amount of chargeable income.

The following schedule shows the tax payable by individuals at various chargeable income levels:—

Chargeable Income	*Rate o Tax*
Rs.	*cs.*
For every rupee of the first 5,000	10
,, next 5,000	15
,, ,, 5,000	25
,, ,, 10,000	40
,, ,, 25,000	50
,, ,, 50,000	60
Remainder of the chargeable income	75

Collections in the year 1953–54 amounted to Rs 30,867,741 as compared with Rs. 29,819,600 in 1952–53.

Estate Duty

Although estate duty does not exist in Mauritius, death duty is payable at a rate dependent upon both the relationship to the deceased and the aggregate value of all property passing at death. This system combines the principles of legacy, succession and estate duties, the two first duties being leviable according to the degree of relationship without aggregation of the whole estate and the latter on the aggregate estate irrespective of relationship.

The rates of death duty were increased in July, 1953. The duty collected during the year 1954 amounted to Rs 707,157.45 as compared with Rs 614,242.39 in 1953.

Local Authorities Finances

The undermentioned table gives comparative figures of revenue and expenditure of the four urban local authorities for the last financial year:—

Local Authority	*Financial Year*	*Revenue* Rs	cs	*Expenditure* Rs	cs
Municipality of Port Louis ...	1954	2,825,425	64	2,853,955	73
Town Council of Beau Bassin—Rose Hill	1953–54	641,421	72	685,133	50
Town Council of Quatre Bornes (excluding Housing Scheme) ...	1953–54	297,994	75	326,325	75
Town Council of Curepipe ...	1953–54	1,683,587	64	1,676,359	53

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The main heads are the following: —

Port Louis

REVENUE :—

Items	Rs	cs
Taxes	1,131,739	87
Rents	255,587	77
Water Supply	134,526	11
Electricity	751,046	44
Government Contribution	412,842	00

EXPENDITURE :—

Items		
Municipal Debt	297,765	21
Establishments	204,918	64
Municipal Services	1,066.911	05
Electricity	609,648	28
Fire Brigade	357,337	32
Special Expenditure	21,309	24

Beau Bassin—Rose Hill

REVENUE :

Items		
Government Contribution	172.140	00
Property rates	170,794	32
Tenants tax	36,765	98
Slaughter house fees, etc	36,629	03
Market fees	42,372	26
Rent Town Hall and Theatre	54,010	12
Entertainment tax	46,191	49

EXPENDITURE :—

Items		
Public Debt	70,952	00
Public Works	115,888	84
Sanitary Services	144,241	40
Miscellaneous	162,970	84

Quatre Bornes

REVENUE :—

Items		
Immoveable property tax	93,889	79
Government Contribution	106,242	00
Rent of Town Hall	14,412	50

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EXPENDITURE :—

Items	*Rs*	*cs*
Public Works	129,961	16
Sanitary Services	51,378	49
Cost of motor car and lorry	24,192	72

SPECIAL REVENUE :—

Item		
Government Loan—Housing Scheme ...	1,000,000	00

SPECIAL EXPENDITURE :—

Items		
Purchase of Building Material—Housing Scheme	403,833	66
Cost of Labour—Housing Scheme ...	235,291	53

Curepipe

REVENUE :—

Items		
Government Contribution	132,156	00
House rate...	353,535	78
Tenants' tax	36,964	70
Market and slaughter house fees ...	54,272	85
Rent	59,564	20

EXPENDITURE :—

Items		
Debt	107,563	46
Public Works	243,611	71
Sanitary Services...	129,450	05

SPECIAL REVENUE :—

Items		
Government loan—Housing Scheme ...	180,000	00
Sugar Industry loan (Welfare Fund) ...	700,000	00
Housing Scheme	332,154	28
Sugar Industry loan (Welfare Fund) ...	288,376	27

DISTRICT AND VILLAGE COUNCILS

The three District Councils established under Ordinance No. 76 of 1951 receive subsidies and grants from the Government and allocate them to the Village Councils, according to estimates approved by the District Councils. In addition to any taxation which may be imposed by the Village Councils, the District Councils have the right to levy taxes which do not apply to any particular village, such as advertisement and placard tax, and entertainment tax. The total estimates for the 87 Village Councils amounted to approximately Rs 403,000. Government grants, including subsidies for scavenging and roads, totalled Rs 468,000. Revenue from Entertainment Tax totalled Rs 75,650.

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Chapter 4—Currency and Banking

The local unit of currency is the Mauritius rupee, equivalent to 1s. 6d sterling, divided into 100 cents.

The notes in circulation are of denominations of Rs 25, 10, 5, and 1. There is also a note of Rs 1,000 denomination which is legal tender only in so far as transactions between the banks carrying on business within the Colony and the Government are concerned.

As from the 15th October, 1954, notes bearing the effigy of H.M. Queen Elizabeth II were put into circulation.

The coins in circulation are the cupro-nickel Rupee, half-rupee, quarter-rupee and 10 cents, and the bronze 5-cent, 2-cent and 1-cent pieces.

The value in circulation at the end of the three last financial years was:—

	30th June, 1952 Rs.	*30th June, 1953* Rs.	*30th June, 1954* Rs.
Notes	42,903,000	48,161,000	50,804,000
Coins	3,127,750	3,282,000	3,301,400
TOTAL ...	46,030,750	51,443,000	54,105,400

LOCAL BANKS

Three trading banks operate in Mauritius: The Mauritius Commercial Bank, The Mercantile Bank of India Ltd and Barclays Bank D.C.O.

Savings bank facilities are provided by the Post Office Savings Bank, The Mauritius Agricultural Bank, The Mauritius Commercial Bank, Barclays Bank D.C.O. and The Mercantile Bank of India Ltd.

Long-term loans for agricultural and housing purposes are provided by the Mauritius Agricultural Bank, while Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Ltd undertakes medium-term finance on a commercial basis for sound development projects of all kinds. There is however a lack of financial institutions specialising in long-term loans to individual borrowers for such purposes as housing, although loans against mortgages are of course obtainable from private sources. The Mauritius Cooperative Central Bank Ltd provides finance on a seasonal basis for the cultivation requirements of the co-operative credit movement. The Government also provides assistance to local industry in the form of medium term loans.

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The Mauritius Commercial Bank was established in 1838. Its paid-up capital was increased in 1948 from Rs 2,000,000 to Rs 3,000,000, the latter sum being made up of 15,000 shares of Rs 200 each. The Bank's Agents in London are Lloyds Bank Ltd, London. The total amount of deposits at the Head Office and its two branches on the 31st December, 1954, was Rs 63,088,732.38, and reserves stood at Rs 3,969,224.

The Mercantile Bank of India Ltd took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius Ltd on the 31st May, 1916. The paid-up capital of the Bank at the 31st December, 1954, was £1,470,000: Reserve Funds amounted to £1,750,000. Through its Head Office in London and its branches throughout India, Malaya and the Far East, The Mercantile Bank of India Ltd is able to offer comprehensive banking facilities to the people of Mauritius.

Barclays Bank D.C.O. has its Head Office in London and about 860 Branches in Africa, the Mediterranean area, the Caribbean area, England, New York and Hamburg, with correspondents in all other important centres. The paid-up capital of the Bank was £10,776,875 as at the 30th September, 1954, and the Reserve Fund was £10,050,000. On the same date total deposits were £493,509,345. The Bank, which is affiliated with Barclays Bank Ltd, was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836 as the Colonial Bank and reincorporated by Act of Parliament in 1925 ; the name was then changed to Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) which amalgamated with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank Ltd and the National Bank of South Africa Ltd. The Port Louis, Mauritius, Branch was established by the last-named Bank in December, 1919, and was taken over by Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) following the amalgamation. The name of the Bank was changed to Barclays Bank D.C.O. in 1954. The Bank acts as Agent for Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Ltd, which was formed in 1946 to assist in the economic development of territories in which the Bank operates and which had a paid-up capital of £4,000,000 on the 30th September, 1954.

Post Office Savings Bank

The Post Office Savings Bank is operated by the Posts and Telegraphs Department. At the 30th June, 1954, the Bank had 63,249 active accounts and 22,987 dormant accounts with a balance due to depositors of Rs 29,323,844. Savings Bank business is transacted at 31 Post Offices. During 1954, transactions amounted in number and value to 117,473 deposits totalling Rs 18,881,953

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and 64,250 withdrawals totalling Rs 15,556,115. Accounts are regarded as dormant if no transaction takes place for a period of twenty years.

The Mauritius Agricultural Bank

The Mauritius Agricultural Bank was established by Ordinance No. 1 of 1936 as a "body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal . . . for the purpose of making long-term loans for agricultural needs."

It started its activities in 1937 with a capital of Rs 10,000,000 which was raised by loans, locally and overseas, by Government. Of this amount Rs 340,000 has been reimbursed by the Bank which had also contributed at the 31st December, 1954, Rs 1,149,760 to a Sinking Fund.

The first change in the constitution of the Bank occurred in 1940 when the minimum for loans (which had been Rs 5,000) was abolished and the Bank was authorised to draw Bills on the Treasury to finance loans for amounts under Rs 5,000.

The Mauritius Economic Commission (1948) recommended that the Bank's capital be increased and the scope of its activities extended to meet the needs of industrial as well as agricultural enterprises. Legislation was passed to this effect and to authorise the Bank to make long-term loans for housing (Ordinance No. 68 of 1950).

In 1949 the Bank had been authorised to raise Rs 3,000,000 from the public by the sale of short-term bills. By Ordinance No 68 of 1950 it was further empowered:—

(a) to raise funds from the public by the issue of long-term debentures, by the issue of subscription debentures payable monthly and quarterly and by accepting fixed deposits for 12–36 months and savings deposits ;

(b) to arrange long-term loans and bank overdrafts.

One of the objects of authorising the Bank to raise funds from the public was to encourage saving in the Colony and it was hoped that the wide choice of investments would prove attractive. The response from the public has, so far, been encouraging. At the 31st December, 1954, there were:—

1,347 Savings Accounts for Rs 1,415,105.

373 Fixed Deposit Accounts for Rs 2,988,068.

215 Accounts for Subscription Debentures involving monthly payments of Rs 12,310 and quarterly payments of Rs 915.

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At the 31st December, 1954, the Bank had paid out Rs 45,384,772 in loans as follows: —

	Rs.
For agriculture	37,818,465
For housing	7,286,317
For industry	279,990
TOTAL ...	45,384,772

The Bank has been entrusted with the management of the loans granted under the Hurricane Loan Ordinance (1945), the Rehabilitation of Factories and Rolling Stock Ordinance (1949), and the Aloe Industry Development Ordinance (1952). The total amount outstanding on its books due by borrowers at the 31st December, 1954, was Rs 48,699,373, of which Rs 32,831,411 consisted of Agricultural Bank loans proper (including Rs 6,506,675 for housing loans), Rs 11,497,601 due by borrowers under the 1945 Hurricane Loan Ordinance, Rs 4,010,236 due by borrowers under the Rehabilitation of Factories and Rolling Stock Ordinance and Rs 360,125 due by borrowers under the Aloe Industry Development Ordinance.

The demand for loans since 1950 has been so far in excess of the resources of the Bank that it has had repeatedly to suspend consideration of applications for loans exceeding Rs 5,000.

The following is a summary of the Bank's balance sheet as at the 31st December, 1954: —

LIABILITIES	Rs	ASSETS	Rs
Mauritius Government	10,348,670	Loans	32,831,411
Debentures and Sub-Debentures	13,000,000	Cash	728,602
Deposits	7,705,513	Investments	934,977
Short-term Bills ...	2,413,150	Other Assets	1,012,984
Internal A/cs and other liabilities	366,462	Sinking Fund Contributions	1,149,760
Sinking Fund	1,149,760		
Reserves and Profit and Loss A/c	1,674,179		
	36,657,734		36,657,734
Funds administered on behalf of the Colonial Government	15,867,962	Hurricane Loan 1945 ...	11,497,601
		Rehabilitation Loans ...	4,010,236
		Aloe Industry Loans ...	360,125
TOTAL	52,525,696	TOTAL	52,525,696

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BANKING STATISTICS

NUMBER OF REPORTING BANKS : 4

Figures for end of month 31st December, 1954

LIABILITIES	Rs
1. Notes in circulation	—
2. Deposits :—	
(*a*) Demand	92,615
(*b*) Time	20,509
(*c*) Savings	5,204
3. Balances due to :—	
(*a*) Other banks in the Colony	1,665
(*b*) Banks abroad	7,269
4. Other liabilities etc.,	46,098
TOTAL LIABILITIES	173,360

ASSETS	Rs
1. Cash	4,143
2. Balances due by other banks in the Colony	1,681
3. Balances due from banks abroad	85,866
4. Loans and advances :—	
(*a*) Primary production (including processing of primary products)	36,644
(*b*) Other industries (including Commerce, Transport and Distribution)	8,318
(*c*) Other advances	23,945
5. Investments :—	
(*a*) Local	3,056
(*b*) Other	2,704
6. Other Assets	7,003
TOTAL ASSETS	173,360

NOTE :—The figures above are in thousand Rupees to the nearest thousand.

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Bank Rates

The buying and selling rates for telegraphic transfers were at the end of 1954 roughly as under: —

	Buying	*Selling*
British Sterling		
Under £5,000	Rs 13.25 per £	Rs 13.43 per £
£5,000 and over	Rs 13.26 ⅜ per £	Rs 13.40 ,,
Canadian Dollars	Rs 4.85 per $	Rs 4.95 per $
U.S.A. Dollars	Rs 4.72 ½ ,,	Rs 4.80 ,,
South African Pounds		
Under £5,000	Rs 13.20 per £	Rs 13.45 per £
£5,000 and over	Rs 13.20 ,,	Rs 13.42 ,,
Australian Pounds	Rs 10.60 ,,	Rs 10.85 ,,
French Francs		
France	Rs 1.34 per 100 francs	Rs 1.38 per 100 francs
Reunion and Madagascar	Rs 2.68 ,,	Rs 2.78 ,,
Other Currencies		
Swiss Francs	Rs 1.08 per franc	Rs 1.11 per franc
India	Par	1% premium
Pakistan	Rs 1.42 per Pak. rupee	Rs 1.45 ½ per Pak. rupee
Ceylon	Par	1 $^{8}/_{16}$% premium
Hong Kong	Par	1% premium
British East Africa	Rs 0.65½ per shilling	Re 0.67 $^{15}/_{100}$ per shilling
Rhodesian Pounds	Rs 13.20 per £	Rs 13.55 per £

The control of foreign exchange was maintained in 1954 under the Mauritius Exchange Control Ordinance, 1951, which was enacted on the lines of the United Kingdom Exchange Control Act 1947, and thus ensures similarity of practice on exchange control matters in the Scheduled Territories.

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Chapter 5—Commerce

The commerce of the Colony depends almost exclusively on the sugar crop which in 1954 yielded 498,568 metric tons as compared with 511,262 metric tons in 1953. The production of high degree alcohol, a by-product of sugar, has further decreased. In fact the quantity exported in 1954 was negligible: only 284 hectolitres as compared with 14,607 hectolitres in 1953 and 49,625 hectolitres in 1952. On the other hand, the exportation of molasses, another by-product of sugar, has been on the upward trend, reaching in 1954 the record figure of 89,912 metric tons as against 67,846 metric tons in 1953, 40,537 metric tons in 1952 and 3,601 metric tons in 1951.

Small quantities of specified grades of tea are also exported. The quantity exported in 1954 was 113 metric tons compared with 33 metric tons in 1953.

A small part of the Colony's demand for foodstuffs is provided by local production, namely meat, sugar, salt, tea, fruit and vegetables, fish (fresh and dried) and coconut oil. Local industries produce cigarettes, matches, aloe fibre bags for sugar, and country liquor. It is however necessary to supply the greater part of the Colony's needs by imports.

The imports of rice, the staple food of the Colony, in 1954 fell back to 37,989 metric tons after reaching the unusually high figure of 58,562 metric tons in 1953. The imports of flour from Australia show a slight decrease: 19,423 metric tons in 1954 as against 21,699 metric tons in 1953. Frozen meat was imported from Australia, beef on the hoof from Madagascar and considerable quantities of foodstuffs from the United Kingdom and the Union of South Africa.

The United Kingdom continues to be the principal source of supply for manufactured goods such as textiles, apparel, machinery, motor vehicles, hardware and electrical goods. Large quantities of cotton piece goods are received from India. Fertilizers were imported mainly from the United Kingdom, France and the German Federal Republic.

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The following tables shew the direction of trade for imports and exports by value:—

Direction of Import Trade

A. Prefential Tariff Countries	*1952* Rs	*1953* Rs	*1954* Rs
United Kingdom	95,033,425	95,988,277	80,159,862
Aden	74,469	205,103	770,258
Australia and New Zealand ...	18,624,508	20.343,915	16,728,904
Bahrein	5,089,753	2,867,153	1,977,125
British East Africa	1,949,034	3,858,888	3,526,147
British West Indies	569,685	43,506	305,330
Burma	21,036,202	47,194,953	21,798,689
Canada	18,381	7,808	4,131
Ceylon	300,500	361,982	240,836
Cyprus	111,690	279,730	175,514
Eire	6	6,434	42,623
Hong-Kong	1,678,373	2,369,270	3,274,086
India	19,503,040	10,569,185	12,794,376
Pakistan	17,412	24,253	32,785
Rhodesia	395,288	698,184	751,059
Seychelles	189,128	145,859	348,988
Straits Settlements	7,462,706	4,309,098	4,223,738
Sudan	—	1,288,135	2,237,601
Union of South Africa	9,464,768	8,849,360	12,694,358
Other Preferential Tariff Countries	—	71,132	9,008
TOTAL ...	181,518,368	199,482,225	162,095,378

B. General Tariff Countries	*1952* Rs	*1953* Rs	*1954* Rs
Belgium	2,758,968	1,539,624	3,120,206
Chile	3,446,240	—	1,344,169
Czechoslovakia	326,792	224,121	383,981
Denmark	116,312	100,361	161,641
Ethiopia	1,025,182	1,477,941	870,928
France	7,457,769	11,892,398	9,425,942
Germany	2,600,967	3,044,062	5,756,056
Holland	2,498,651	1,983,176	2,361,546
Hungary	80,650	21,542	24,273
Iran...	84,306	31,257	43,602
Italy (including Sicily)	1,242,442	6,509,153	4,098,231
Japan	1,506,818	348,794	1,403,834
Luxembourg	239,186	118,084	212,066
Madagascar	13,161,998	4,723,299	1,624,775
Morocco	218,203	269,132	221,691
Netherlands East Indies... ...	223,380	83,358	55,153
Netherlands West Indies ...	3,130,019	1,167.999	1,569,799
Norway	199,227	136,376	77,184
Poland	56,504	7,757	77,313
Portugal	517.369	711,319	574,833
Portuguese East Africa	138,820	2,807,302	1,963,696
Russia	2,184	5,604	74
Saudi Arabia	941,650	142,739	69,023
Siam	186,379	7,822,966	10,714,850

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DIRECTION OF IMPORT TRADE—*continued*

B. General Tariff Countries	*1952* *Rs*	*1953* *Rs*	*1954* *Rs*
Spain	187,076	162,892	163,269
Sweden	949,282	663,950	912,532
Switzerland	499,819	571,216	924,206
United States of America ...	4,964,849	3,840,309	2,778,930
Yugoslavia...	39,959	—	911
Other Countries	410,275	1,070,500	1,187,042
TOTAL ...	49,211,276	51,477,231	52,121,756
BAGGAGE ...	70,779	134,299	142,221
GRAND TOTAL OF IMPORTS...	230,800,423	251,093,755	214,359,355

DIRECTION OF EXPORT TRADE

A. Preferential Tariff Countries	*1952* *Rs*	*1953* *Rs*	*1954* *Rs*
United Kingdom	121,953,989	163,779,653	197,496,905
Aden	1,713,826	—	1,333
Australia and New Zealand ...	203,303	34,259	11,596
British East Africa	13,373,421	4,566,363	285,318
British Somaliland	503,674	252,007	—
Canada	9,839,659	40,629,964	39,975,126
Ceylon	54,223,729	20,413,800	18,384,619
Hong Kong	23,698,495	23,690,533	10,936
India	65,113	2,515	5,461
Seychelles	596,310	546,404	427,294
Southern Rhodesia	14,952,859	10.777,779	20
Union of South Africa	223,054	238,790	503,247
Other Preferential Tariff Countries	40,771	32,425	83,050
TOTAL ..	241,388,203	264,964,492	257,184,905
B. General Tariff Countries			
Belgium	96,070	23,408	465
France	176,895	88,903	96,832
Germany	250,425	9,065	8,810
Greece	—	484,965	—
Holland	130,718	492,600	57,656
Italy	83,158	46	223,520
Madagascar	1,377,534	629,308	518,175
Norway	67,623	1,163	—
Portuguese East Africa	—	34,024	350
Reunion	152,705	383,556	468,845
Sweden	1,775,213	—	—
Syria	71,483	3	—
United States of America ...	7,044	751,858	1,518,997
Other General Tariff Countries...	11,225	27,116	31,952
TOTAL ...	4,200,093	2,926,015	2,925,602
Sugar Quota Certificates ...	6,111,170	6,274,589	6,855,174
GRAND TOTAL OF EXPORTS ...	251,699,466	274,165,096	266,965,681

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TRADE FIGURES

I—IMPORTS*

Principal Imports	1952 TOTAL=Rs. 230,800,423 Quantity	1952 Value C.I.F. Rs.	1953 TOTAL=Rs. 251,093,755 Quantity	1953 Value C.I.F. Rs.	1954 TOTAL=Rs. 214,359,355 Quantity	1954 Value C.I.F. Rs.	Main Sources of Supply
Rice	41,721 M. Tons	35,511,175	58,562 M. Tons	60,180,099	37,989 M. Tons	31,966,229	Burma, Siam, India, Indo-China, and Straits Settlements.
Wheaten flour	21,912 ,,	12,575,030	21,699 ,,	13,293,167	19,437 ,,	10,091,687	Australia, and Union of South Africa.
Other grain and grain products ...	5,373 ,,	4,370,908	6,474 ,,	4,515,644	8,340 ,,	4,914,072	Australia, Ethiopia, Union of South Africa, Burma and Erytrea.
Cattle and meat	—	2,958,084	—	2,730,715	—	3,341,489	Australia (meat) and Madagascar (cattle).
Edible oils and fats	3,432 ,,	7,022,682	5,469 ,,	11,572,942	5,389 ,,	9,150,008	British East Africa, Sudan and Portuguese East Africa.
Beverages	—	2,907,441	—	2,704,955	—	3,106,413	United Kingdom, France, Union of South Africa, Holland and Germany.
Petroleum products	—	12,263,534	—	11,525,673	—	10,224,876	Italy, Bahrein, Netherlands West Indies, United Kingdom, United States of America and Aden.
Coal	27,086 ,,	2,493,516	28,199 ,,	1,957,423	26,922 ,,	1,880,813	Union of South Africa.
Wood and wood manufactures ...	—	2,730,566	—	4,307,779	—	4,580,837	Straits Settlements, Siam, Australia, Union of South Africa and United Kingdom.
Gunny bags	3,430,500 Units	7,858,732	1,407,222 Units	1,672,351	2,125,791 Units	2,719,631	India.
Cotton piece goods ...	6,348,325 sqms	11,265,571	8,013,594 sqms	10,667,371	7,329,364 sqms	9,705,100	United Kingdom, India, Japan and Hong Kong.
Woollen piece goods	258,702 ,,	2,753,240	211,455 ,,	2,346,338	160,969 ,,	1,955,264	United Kingdom, Italy and France.
Silk piece goods ...	1,969,138 ,,	4,137,826	2,386,305 ,,	4,812,258	2,193,752 ,,	4,180,586	United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Japan, India, France and Italy.
Vehicles :—							
(i) Road :—							
(a) Motor cars	942 Units	6,142,466	753 Units	4,923,125	404 Units	2,573,514	United Kingdom.
(b) Other	—	7,233,805	—	7,162,047	—	5,358,867	United Kingdom.
(ii) Railway and tramway locomotives and accessories ...	—	1,473,733	—	1,381,701	—	806,939	United Kingdom and Germany.
(iii) Ships, aircraft and accessories[1]...	—	30,551	—	1,285,597	—	76,996	United States of America.
Cement	32,337 M. Tons	5,610,967	27,528 M. Tons	3,951,290	40,299 M. Tons	5,677,020	United Kingdom, Germany and Belgium
Machinery	3,012 ,,	12,779,869	3,844 ,,	19,469,045	2,459 ,,	12,839,612	United Kingdom, France and United States of America.
Electrical goods	—	4,319,826	—	4,152,046	—	3,360,050	United Kingdom and Holland.
Iron and steel goods	11,671	14,637,352	10,071 ,,	14,131,769	15,474 ,,	17,154,341	United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany and France.
Manures and Fertilizers ...	38,657 ,,	13,916,103	31,940 ,,	9,758,370	31,543 ,,	9,474,065	United Kingdom, France and Germany.
Paper and paper manufactures ...	—	2,343,029	1,589	2,161,989	1,690 ,,	2,601,418	United Kingdom and Belgium.

* Excluding Bullion and Specie valued at Rs. 940,200 in 1952, Rs. 1,063,867 in 1953 and Rs. 698,845 in 1954.

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II. EXPORTS*

	1952	1953	1954
	Rs	Rs	Rs
(a) Domestic Exports	242,995,510	264,785,990	257,558,856
(b) Sugar Quota Certificates	6,111,170	6,274,589	6,855,174
(c) Re-Exports	2,592,786	3,104,517	2,551,651
TOTAL EXPORTS	251,699,466	274,165,096	266,965,681

Principal Exports	*Quantity*	*F.O.B. Value Rs*	*Quantity*	*F.O.B. Value Rs*	*Quantity*	*F.O.B. Value Rs*	*Main Countries of Destination*
Sugar ...	469,748 M. Tons	238,984,136†	481,892 M. Tons	264,908,589†	502,404 M. Tons	258,908,757†	United Kingdom, Canada Ceylon and Seychelles.
Molasses ...	40,537 ,,	5,950,285	67,848 ,,	4,641,194	89,912 ,,	4,511,647	United Kingdom, United States of America and Italy.
Rum ...	49,625 Hectols	3,199,504	14,607 Hectols	1,073,704	284 Hectols	25,403	Seychelles and Hong Kong.
Aloe Fibre ...	506 M. Tons	685,685	142 M. Tons	56,363	60 M. Tons	25,007	France and Germany.
Tea	8 ,,	42,285	33 ,,	170,990	113 ,,	591,769	United Kingdom, Union of South Africa, Holland and Reunion.

*Exports of Bullion and Specie in 1952 and 1953—NIL ; in 1954—Rs 108,000.

†Including value of Sugar Quota Certificates.

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Chapter 6—Production

Land Utilisation and Water Conservation

Mauritius covers an area of 460,800 acres of which about 206,000 acres are under cultivation of a very efficient type as compared with many colonial territories. Beyond the crops from this land the Island produces little else with which to meet the requirements of a population numbering nearly 539,000, or 737 per square mile. The balance of the " agricultural " land is made up of rough meadow, grass and scrub lands including the wild growing aloe fibre, and totals about 110,000 acres.

The non-agricultural lands consist of 88,400 acres of forests and natural reserves and 54,000 acres of permanent waste lands, built up areas, ponds, rivers and lakes.

The central and elevated part of the Island, above the 100" isohyet, is mostly covered with forest and scrub land to protect and regulate the water resources. In this area cultivation, except for tea, is not very conspicuous. No laws specially protecting this natural watershed exist except those giving protection to Mountain and River Reserves and to a coastal belt 250 feet wide known as the " Pas Géométriques."

The main upland water catchment area is mostly Crown property and utilized for the production of forest produce, fuel and fodder, with a limited acreage under tea and other crops. Water resources are mainly dependent on the incidence of nearby cyclonic disturbances bringing rain, most of which falls in the hot season or in the heavy downpours accompanying cyclonic disturbances. Several reservoirs have been constructed in order to hold this water for domestic purposes and irrigation and for the production of electrical energy. Progress continued during the year on the construction of the major system of reservoirs which is scheduled for completion in the near future.

Land Ownership

In the early days of French colonization land was conceded to settlers almost all over the Island. Later, land ownership was governed by the French Civil Code or " Code Napoléon," which is still in force. This provides for equal division of property among the heirs, often leading ultimately to the excessive fragmentation of land, especially where the Indo-Mauritians are concerned. The demand for land is accentuated by the rapid growth of population,

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especially of the Asiatic section, leading to inflation of land values. Grouping of estates into companies has checked fragmentation for the bulk of the land, although for a time speculation led to a system of parcelling known as " morcellement," when large tracts of land were purchased and sold again in numerous small lots.

Land Tenure

The Island was uninhabited when first colonized. Its original permanent settlers were the French who, through the grant of concessions, became the original freehold owners of all the land except Crown Lands. At present, apart from Crown Lands, including Crown Forests and the " Pas Géométriques " which total 83,000 acres, the land is owned in large or small lots by all sections of the community. Roughly 75 per cent is owned by companies and private estates, the remainder being the outright property of Indo-Mauritians. In addition to freehold tenure, land is also held on leasehold and on share cropping agreements.

Some privately-owned lands and Crown Lands are held on leasehold. Leases for Crown Lands are generally auctioned to the highest bidder ; leases vary from 3 to 30 years with security of tenure for satisfactory tenants. Various types of share-cropping in the form of " métayage " exist.

Renting Systems

Rentals are either cash, crop-sharing or " Taungya." In crop-sharing the proportion of the crop handed over as rental varies according to circumstances and the nature of the crop ; under the " Taungya " system, which is adopted in tree plantations, especially by Government in forest areas, the tenant is permitted to grow vegetables or annual crops between the young trees provided he keeps the trees clear of weeds and recruits them. Lease in this form is of relatively short duration as cultivation is discontinued as soon as the trees have grown to a sufficient size.

Land Settlement

About 70 years ago the process of parcelling of land known as " morcellement " referred to above, began. In the years which followed it gained momentum until some thirty years ago, when, after a last short spurt, it practically ceased to operate, except occasionally at irregular intervals. This parcelling out has resulted in the automatic, if unorganized, settlement on the land of a very large number of peasant proprietors who, by thrift, have become

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outright owners of their own plots of land in many localities of the Island. In recent years organized settlement was attempted and a pilot scheme was put under way. The policy at present is to complete the pilot land settlement scheme in order to obtain reliable figures on the economy of such schemes. The first settlement at Petit Sable worked quite satisfactorily in the past year. There are 10 residential small-holdings, 40 allotments and 85 onion plots. Small holders are allowed to plant half of their plots with sugarcane, which last year gave very satisfactory yields. The co-operative credit society into which the tenants formed themselves functioned smoothly.

Nineteen tenants were established at Richelieu towards the end of the year after the land had been cleared. Work also began on the improvement of irrigation in this area.

At Terre Rouge, over an area of 300 acres, cleared last year, 102 tenants were established. It has not yet been possible to provide them with irrigation water.

There are no laws relating specifically to settlement, but where suitable Crown Lands are not available in any area, Government can use compulsory powers to acquire land.

AGRICULTURE

Sugar

Mauritius is naturally best adapted for the production of sugar which is the main staple of the Island and on the proceeds of which live a population of over half a million. The bulk of the production is exported to the United Kingdom ; about 21,000 tons are consumed locally.

In 1954, the production of sugar amounted to 498,568 metric tons obtained from an harvested area of about 177,000 acres. The average annual production of the preceding three years was 488,000 tons. The average yield of cane per acre over the whole island was about 24·1 tons, or 3·6 tons less than in the preceding year.

This decrease was due for the most part to unfavourable conditions, especially during the later months of the year when rainfall was above normal. However sugar extraction was 11·65 per cent as compared to 11·03 in 1953. The production of sugar per acre was approximately 2·81 tons, about 0·23 tons less than the previous record.

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Although a considerable proportion of cane lands is under peasant ownership, mostly Indo-Mauritian, the bulk of the sugar is produced on the plantation scale. The larger plantations, to which a factory is attached, produced about 57 per cent of the total crop. The smaller peasant owners, some 15,000 of whom cultivate about 19 per cent of the land under cane, often work their land with the assistance of their families, employing extraneous labour at peak periods of the planting and harvesting seasons. Many of these small planters have grouped themselves into co-operative societies for the purpose of consigning their canes to factories.

The cane is milled in 27 factories whose individual capacity varies between 8,000 and 40,000 tons of sugar per annum. For the most part the factories, with adjoining lands, forming estates, are company-owned.

The manufactured sugar is marketed by the Sugar Syndicate. Since the War the price of Commonwealth sugar has been fixed by agreement with the United Kingdom Government in accordance with the provisions of the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement. In 1954 the United Kingdom undertook to purchase 351,000 long tons of Mauritius sugar at 41/- per cwt., which represented a decrease of 1/4 per cwt over the 1953 price, the balance of the crop being available for sale on the world market, where only a lower price is obtainable. A considerable part of the balance available for sale on the open market was exported to Canada, to Hong Kong and to Southern Rhodesia.

The Commonwealth Sugar Agreement has been extended for a further year and will run to the end of 1962. The " negotiated price " for sugar bought in 1955 under the terms of the Commonwealth Agreement has been fixed at £40.15/- per ton or 5/- per ton less than in 1954 the reduction being due to a decrease in the index for supplies, particularly for sugar bags and fertilisers. There was no movement in the index of wages and salaries.

Locally, canes are purchased by factories on the basis of 2/3rds of the extraction going to the grower. Contracts are subject to the control of the Central Board, which functions as part of the Department of Agriculture.

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Alcohol, one of the major by-products of the sugar industry, is produced in 10 distilleries, most of which did not work during the year. The production of alcohol amounted to 1,863,060 litres (94°G.L.) but only a small quantity was exported. On the other hand the exportation of molasses, another by-product of sugar manufacture, has been constantly on the increase.

Industrial Crops

Three other crops are grown industrially, but on a small scale compared with sugarcane. These are tea, tobacco and ' aloe ' fibre.

Tea

The area of tea in bearing at the end of the year was 2,142 acres. Permits have been issued for the planting of a total of 3,208 acres, but not all the permits have been fully taken up. The yield of made tea per acre has increased to 510 lb as compared with 440 lb in 1953. This increase is due to the coming into bearing of the recently planted high-yielding jat teas and also to the favourable weather conditions which prevailed during the year.

Like sugarcane, tea is produced both by plantation and peasant growers. There are 17 plantation growers with a holding of 25 acres and over. The number of peasant growers with an average holding of 2 acres has increased from 317 in 1953 to 355 in 1954. All the peasant growers and four of the plantation owners are Indo-Mauritians.

Tea is manufactured in five factories, all of which have recently been modernised ; work on the last factory was completed in 1954. Output varies between 528,456 lb for the largest factory to 33,746 lb for the smallest.

The greater part of the tea produced, 1,093,556 lb, is at present required to meet local requirements. The rise in the world price of tea, however, made it economic to export notwithstanding the high cost of production in the Colony, 250,913 lb as compared with the previous highest exports in a year (1951: 89,826 lb). The greater part of the exportable tea is produced by one factory.

Considerable interest has been shown in the tea industry during the year by the larger land owners. Further progress has been made with the Government plantations at Midlands where 20 acres of tea are now in bearing.

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Tobacco

Tobacco was grown on 639·64 acres in 1954. Most of this area was under the variety Amarello, the remainder being under flue-cured Virginian varieties. Production, which was not affected by any factor of exceptional character, reached 471,000 kilos, of which 370,345 kilos came from Amarello leaf. Of the total 296,655 kilos were flue-cured.

Tobacco is entirely grown in small acreages, for the most part by Indo-Mauritian peasant cultivators. None of the tobacco is exported. Indeed, a certain quantity—about 35 per cent—of Virginian flue-cured leaf is imported for admixture with local leaf for the manufacture of the better type of cigarette. Cigarettes of lower grades are made entirely of local Amarello leaf. Owing to soil and climate characteristics Mauritius is not likely to produce flue-cured Virginian tobacco of sufficiently good colour and aroma for export.

The area annually grown is determined by the Tobacco Board, an officially constituted body, on which sit representatives of the various interests concerned. Closely connected with it is the Tobacco Warehouse which receives, grades, processes, bales, stores and sells all the tobacco produced in the Colony. Producers received on the average Rs 4.02 per kilo of flue-cured Amarello and Rs 4.29 per kilo of Virginian flue-cured tobacco ; air-cured leaf sold at Rs 3.02 per kilo.

Fibre

The fibre industry depends almost entirely on the so-called " aloe " fibre produced by the plant known as *Furcraea ;* a small acreage of sisal is also grown. Most of the *Furcraea* fibre is obtained from an indeterminate area carrying wild-growing plants, which is generally conceded to yield on average about ½ ton per acre per year. In recent years, in view of the development of a factory designed to process the raw fibre into cloth for the making of bags for the sugar industry, it has been possible to arrive at a *modus vivendi* between fibre producers, sugar manufacturers and the Sack Factory. At the same time increasing interest in the crop has led to the establishment of regular plantations, in order to reduce costs of production. It is estimated that regularly planted fields should be capable of yielding up to 1½ tons of fibre per acre. The Mauritius Hemp Producers' Syndicate estimates that there were in 1954 about 3,000 acres of *Furcraea* plantations.

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In 1954, 40 decorticating plants produced 1,750 tons of fibre. Fibre is extracted for the most part by machines known as " grattes " i.e. specially modified *raspadores* working against scutching plates, into which the leaves are fed by hand. The fresh or green fibre must then be retted, washed and dried, prior to consigning to the Baling Factory. Attempts to produce fully automatic machines continued during the year, but without outstanding success.

The Sack Factory, which was for most of the year in process of enlargement, absorbed 2,187 tons of *Furcraea* fibre for the manufacture of 2,246,422 sacks (of 80 kilos capacity), 40,166 yards of cloth for filter presses and a small quantity of yarn for processing into ropes locally.

All the fibre produced is handled by the Mauritius Hemp Producers Syndicate which grades, combs, bales, stores and sells the fibre, either for sack making or for export. In normal years there is very little scope for *Furcraea* outside Mauritius, but in recent years it has been quite easy to dispose of the small surpluses available by export.

Food Crops

Mauritius imports most of its food requirements, but a certain amount of subsidiary foodstuffs and all the protective foods, mostly vegetables and fresh fruits, are locally produced.

Foodcrops were harvested over an area of about 8,000 arpents (one arpent is equivalent to 1·043 acres) during the year and yielded approximately 16,000 tons of marketable produce, chiefly vegetables, potatoes and maize.

Practical demonstrations of the use of fertilizers and of methods of crop protection have been carried out in various localities and improvements observed in crop yields suggest that they have met with a fair measure of success. The new demonstration and experimental plot, covering two arpents, started at the end of the year at Vacoas for the benefit of the large number of market gardeners in that locality, has served a very useful purpose.

The agricultural equipment belonging to the former Food Production Board was transferred to the Sugar Planters' Mechanical Agricultural Pool, a new organisation which has been formed to assist planters towards fuller mechanisation and is maintained by

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URING HIS STAY IN MAURITIUS, FROM THE 7TH TO THE 18TH JUNE, THE EARL OF MUNSTER, PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR ROBERT SCOTT, K.C.M.G., VISITED THE SUGAR INDUSTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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funds obtained from the Rehabilitation Fund established under the Sugar Industry Reserve Funds Ordinance. The Department of Agriculture retains some claim to the use of the equipment for the use of its experimental stations and development projects, as well as for the clearing of Crown Lands leased for foodcrop cultivation.

Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture consists of 12 divisions and is headed by a Director and two Deputy Directors. The full strength of the Department, including both permanent and temporary Officers, numbers 217. There were 25 vacancies at the end of the year.

The policy of the Department of Agriculture is to promote the most efficient use of all lands available for and capable of cultivation and to foster the most efficient production of livestock products.

The basis of Mauritius agriculture is sugarcane, which covers most of the available arable land, but there are areas in certain parts of the island which are not specially suited for sugarcane and these are under close study for the development of other crops such as tea, fibre and pasture, which fit particularly well into the ecological picture: tea and grass in the high rainfall zone, fibre and fodder in the drier regions. Tobacco, now a well-established secondary industry producing for local consumption only, is also catered for. In addition to crops, the Department is actively engaged in the improvement of livestock, mainly with the object of increasing the island's milk production.

The attainment of greater self-sufficiency in foodcrops, vegetables and fruits is also part of the agricultural policy, although there are definite limitations in this direction.

As part of the machinery to implement policy for the intensive utilization of the Colony's resources, the Board of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Fisheries, was set up with effect from the 1st January, 1954, to take over the functions of numerous separate boards and committees.

VETERINARY DIVISION

The staff of the Veterinary Division of the Department of Agriculture consists of a Senior Veterinary Officer, a Veterinary Officer, an Animal Husbandry Officer and 36 other officers.

The policy of the Division is to improve livestock and livestock products in the Colony.

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Animal Husbandry

Number and Description of Livestock

The last census, made in 1950, gave the following figures:—

Bovines	40,282
Goats	53,561
Sheep	2,013
Pigs	4,009

Of the 40,000 bovines, 32,000 are of the local or "creole" milk breed whose ancestry goes back probably to the Scandinavian polled mountain breed of Viking days. These animals are small, compact, polled and of fine bone; white is the predominating colour. They are owned mostly by the Indo-Mauritian peasant class under whose management they average 1,400 lb of milk (3·9 per cent fat) per lactation of 200/250 days. This yield could easily be doubled under good conditions of feeding, housing and handling. The remaining 8,000 head of cattle are of zebu origin; some 5,000 of them are kept on sugar estates for the production of manure, the balance being mostly owned by Indo-Mauritians and used for haulage work.

The goats are a mixed lot of the Barbari type and are for the most part kept by peasants for slaughter. They produce only enough milk for their kids. The sheep are a nondescript lot in which Black-Head Persian blood now predominates. They do not thrive well and are chiefly owned by estates on the coastal belt. The pigs are, for the most part, degenerate descendants of European breeds introduced in the past. They are peasant owned, many surviving largely by scavenging. Poultry consists of birds of the vulture necked type and scrubs of various European breeds.

Production and Marketing

The animals slaughtered for beef production are both locally produced cattle, mainly of the milk breed, and cattle imported from Rodrigues and Madagascar. The number slaughtered amounts to about 12,000.

A large number of goats (about 40,000) are slaughtered annually for meat consumption.

Milk production annually amounts to approximately 1,750,000 gallons.

The Government maintains an experimental dairy in the uplands and a centre for cattle-breeding and improvement on the coast.

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The poultry improvement scheme started in 1952 has suffered a set-back owing to Newcastle Disease which has assumed enzootic proportions.

With a view to improving the cattle breed intensive work is being carried out on milk surveys, artificial insemination, pregnancy diagnosis, enucleation of luteal cysts, etc.

Improvement of goats and sheep is mainly carried out by the Government Experimental Station providing pedigreed stock for crossing purposes.

Fisheries

Principal Fishing Areas and Methods

Fishing is practised in the lagoon surrounding most of the island, which covers an area of about 95 square miles and off shore on the shelf to the 100-fathom line which is extensive in the northern part, forming a bank of about 200 square miles with an average depth of 35 fathoms.

The fishing company which used to fish the remote banks of the South Indian Ocean has ceased operations.

In local waters, seine nets, traps and lines are used ; on the banks fishing is done with lines from light pinnaces around the mother ship.

About 1,800 fishermen with some 900 light fishing boats and a number of deep-sea pinnaces are engaged in fishing the 2,000 tons which form the average annual catch. An interesting trend is the larger number of pinnaces equipped with marine engines for off-shore fishing. This has been fostered by the issue of Government loans under the Development and Welfare programme for the purchase of motors, but a number of lagoon fishermen have been equipping their light craft with 3½h.p. outboard motors without outside assistance. These developments should eventually result in a greater supply of fish to the population and a more congenial occupation for the people engaged in the fishing industry.

Usually middlemen supply crafts and gear to the fishermen who in return bring their catch at an agreed price. The middle-man is expected to make advances during periods of forced idleness. It appears that an increasing number of fishermen are freeing themselves from debt.

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The local catch is entirely consumed locally. The price varies with the abundance of fish ; it is generally lower during the summer months when more fish is caught. There is no fish available for export.

The control of fisheries is exercised by the Fisheries Branch of the Department of Agriculture. This consists of a Fisheries Officer and an inspectorate of 59 inspectors and guards who are responsible for the enforcement of the laws regulating fisheries, the collection and compilation of statistics, and the study and implementation of all new measures which might be recommended for the better protection of the stock or to improve the efficiency of the industry or for the welfare of the fishing community.

A Fisheries Advisory Board studies all matters of policy and makes recommendations.

Forestry

The final report of the Forestry Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on his inspection of the forests of Mauritius in 1953 was received during the year. Of outstanding interest were the views expressed by him on *(a)* the retention as against the removal of dense undergrowth in artificially raised plantations, and *(b)* the desirable silvicultural treatment to be given to the " National Reserves," which, with the exception of a number of experimental plots within them, have received no cultural treatment. On the question of undergrowth within artificial plantations, he expressed the view that the principal aim in cultural operations should be to create conditions likely to produce the healthiest and most robust trees in plantations. As regards the " National Reserves," he advised that exotics such as ' guava,' ' privet,' ' liane cerf,' and ' framboise marron ' should be ruthlessly cut out and controlled.

Areas of different types of forest.—The following are particulars of the different types of forested areas in Mauritius:—

I. *Crown Forest Estate*

Classification	*Acreage*	*Total area in acres*
(i) Protected native forests (National Reserves) ...	4,520	
(ii) Productive forests, including plantations of exotics	23,859	
(iii) Catchment areas (Protected)	10,602	
(iv) Mountain Reserves (Protected)	23,424	
(v) Miscellaneous (Areas leased and not devoted to forestry)	4,745	
		67,150

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II. *Leased Crown Lands in the Pas Géométriques*

Classification	*Acreage*	*Total area in acres*
(i) Tree plantations (mainly *Casuarina Equisetifolia*)	4,400	—
(ii) Rocky grazing lands with trees	1,100	5,500

III. *Privately owned forested lands*

(i) Mountain Reserves (ii) River Reserves	Protected by law	9,000 6,500	15,500
(iii) Forest Lands (iv) Scrub Lands	Not protected by law	5,800 93,900	99,700
	TOTAL		120,700
	GRAND TOTAL		187,850

Policy and Methods of Management

The Crown Forest Estate.—Forest Policy may be briefly summarised as follows:—

(i) To reserve in perpetuity sufficient land either already forested or capable of afforestation in order to safeguard and maintain water supplies, preserve the climatic and physical conditions of the Colony, prevent erosion and the silting up of reservoirs, provide forest produce for domestic, agricultural and industrial requirements and to maintain soil stability where the land is liable to deterioration if put to other uses ;

(ii) to manage this Forest Estate so as to obtain the best returns on its capital value and the expenses of management, in so far as such returns are consistent with the primary aims set out above ;

(iii) to set aside in perpetuity as ' National Reserves ' suitable areas of the native forests of Mauritius and to preserve such areas in their natural state by controlling, and preventing, if possible, the intrusion and establishment of other-than-native trees and plants ;

(iv) to encourage and assist the practice of sound forestry by private enterprise, and to educate selected Mauritians in technical forestry.

In regard to the Crown Forest Estate, it has not yet been found possible to undertake the essential preliminary operations upon which must be based a Working Plan for the forests of Mauritius setting out the detailed manner in which the forests will be managed so that they may produce a sustained annual yield of produce in perpetuity and in conformity with the policy outlined above. Until such a Working Plan is prepared and approved, all operations must be conducted on a year-to-year basis.

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Organization of the forestry industry.—The Forest Department is directly responsible for the management of the Crown Forest Estate ; all silvicultural and exploitation operations within it are conducted by the Department which directly exploits, converts and sells all forest produce deriving from it. Privately owned forested lands other than those protected by law are ' managed ' by individual owners and in the course of the year under review many owners have undertaken replanting operations. All forest produce deriving from exploitation operations is consumed locally.

Within privately owned forested lands protected by law, i.e. Mountain and River Reserves, no felling or forestry operations of any kind may be carried out without the approval of Government, such approval being given only in exceptional circumstances and as a general rule is restricted to the removal of dead and fallen timber.

Initial processing of timber, sawmills.—Felling and logging is carried out by means of the saw and the axe. The preference of the professional woodcutter for working on his own is very marked and the use of the axe, rather than saw and axe combined in felling —logging operations, preponderates and results in much avoidable waste. Several types of cross-cutting saw have been introduced and demonstrated but so far attempts to persuade woodcutters to work in teams have been unsuccessful. Timber is man-handled from stump to roadside and from there transported by lorries to sawmills, of which there are 48 in the Island, the majority inadequately powered.

Marketing of produce.—Timber from the Crown Forest Estate is sold either in the round or in converted form at the three Government Timber Stores at Port Louis, Rose Hill and Curepipe. Fuel from the Crown Forest Estate is converted departmentally and sold in the forests to individual purchasers who remove it by lorry. A considerable quantity of fuel is also converted into charcoal in the forests, the finished product being removed to and sold at Government Timber Stores.

Produce from privately owned forests is generally sold standing to dealers in timber, firewood and charcoal but some owners conduct their own exploitation operations.

The retail prices of forest produce from the Crown Forest Estate are appreciably lower than those charged by private traders and sawmillers.

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Forest Produce Exploited

Crown Forest Estate.—The following tables give particulars of forest produce exploited on Crown Forest Lands during 1954.

(i) *Timber :—*

I. Hardwoods :—	*Log Volume, cubic ft.*
(*a*) Eucalyptus spp.	244,189
(*b*) Camphor (*Camphora Officinarum*)	25
(*c*) Tecoma (*Tabebuia Pallida*)	1,041
(*d*) Filao (*Casuarina Equisetifolia*)	3,236
(*e*) " Native species " (various)	16,470
(*f*) Others	21,298
	286,259

II. Softwoods :—	*Log. Volume, cubic ft.*
(*g*) *Pinustæda, P. Caribaea, P. sinensis*	76,777
(*h*) *Juniperus Bedfordiana*	8,554
(*i*) *Cryptomeria Japonica*	25,481
(*j*) *Araucaria Cunninghamii*	163
TOTAL	110,975
GRAND TOTAL	397,234

(ii) *Firewood and charcoal.*—During 1954, 22,325 cords of firewood, each of 80 stacked cubic feet (equivalent to 1,160,250 cft. solid) and 50,520 kgs of charcoal were produced in the Crown Forest Estate.

From privately owned forests and leased Crown Lands

(i) *Timber.*—An estimated volume of some 200,000 cft. of round timber, principally ' filao ' and eucalyptus, was produced.

(ii) *Firewood and charcoal.*—An estimated 5,580 cords of firewood (279,000 cft. solid) and 800,000 kgs of charcoal were produced.

The Forest Department

The permanent establishment of the Department consists of 150 posts.

Temporary Employees.—For the day-to-day conduct of forestry operations the Department employed during 1954, a labour force of approximately 1,200 labourers who worked at Forest Department Nurseries and at Government Timber Stores, and on silvicultural, exploitation and surveying operations, the cutting of timber and fuel and the manufacture of charcoal.

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Organization of the Department.—The smallest administrative unit in the management of the Crown Forest Estate is the Forest Section which is under the control of a Forester, assisted by one or more Forest Guards. A number of Forest Sections constitute a Forest Range, administered by a Forest Range Officer with the assistance of one or more Deputy Forest Rangers. Two or more Forest Ranges constitute a Division which is administered by a Divisional Forest Assistant, under the general control of the Conservator of Forests. The Assistant Conservator of Forests is employed on technical forestry operations and assists the Conservator in his administrative duties.

Labour Supply.—In the purely silvicultural operations undertaken by the Department, the labour force employed is almost wholly Indo-Mauritian, but amongst the ranks of sawyers and woodcutters employed on piece-work rates a high proportion of "Creoles" continues to be employed. The percentage of "Creoles" is increasing, however, in the ranks of nursery labourers and workers employed on silvicultural and allied operations.

Cyclones.—No major cyclones traversed the island during 1954.

Imports of timber.—During 1954, a total of 593,481 cft. of converted timber and 11,219 cft. of shingles, of a gross value of Rs 3,760,717 was imported into the Colony, mainly from Malaya (82·91 per cent), Siam (10·82 per cent) and Australia (4·17 per cent). Imported timber is preferred for building construction owing to its superior finish.

Food production.—Damage by deer, pigs, and monkeys in the upland forest zones restricts the application of the 'taungya' system to forest plantations within the lower and warmer elevations and the coastal belt.

Protection.—The 4,520 acres of National Reserves continued to receive full attention. The experimental plots laid out to establish the best means of controlling exotics and at the same time foster the regeneration of native species are now showing gratifying results.

The experimental timber plantations created on the lower slopes of Signal Mountain were satisfactorily protected against fire. These plantations are surrounded by grass lands which are annually set on fire: two fires crossed into the rigidly protected areas but were brought under control before they could enter the plantations.

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During 1954, a total of 29·86 acres were newly planted and created in privately owned river reserves, while existing plantations received regular cultural attention.

One owner of protected mountain reserves was granted permission to remove dead, dying and fallen trees. The areas exploited by him were replanted during the year.

No serious damage to Eucalyptus crops by the Curculionid beetle *Gonipterus Scutellatus* was reported.

Tea cultivation.—The cultivation of tea in Crown Lands " Wooton " and " Midlands " was extended. The Forest Department assisted the Tea Officer in the initial clearance of the areas.

Silviculture.—A total area of 930·95 acres was newly planted during the year, principally with:—

(i) *Eucalyptus robusta* and *Eucalyptus maculata (var citriodora);*
(ii) *Pinus Caribaea* and *Pinus taeda ;*
(iii) *Swietenia mahogani ;*
(iv) *Dalbergia latifolia ;*
(v) *Araucaria Cookii* and *A. Cunninghamii ;*
(vi) *Tabebuia pallida ;* and
(vii) *Agathis robusta.*

In addition some 2,948 acres of plantations of from 2–20 years of age were weeded, cleaned, thinned and pruned.

Output of Forest Produce

The statement below gives the estimated volume in the round (log volume) of timber produced or imported into Mauritius during 1954 and of other minor forest produce:—

(i) *Major Forest Produce (Timber) :—*

Local Production	*Cubic feet*
(*a*) Production from Crown Forests	397,234
(*b*) Unleased Pas Géométriques	1,000
(*c*) Production from privately owned forests	200,000
TOTAL LOCAL PRODUCTION	598,234
Imported	*Cubic feet*
Imports for 1954 (Log Volume)	1,209,403
GRAND TOTAL (LOG. VOL) ...	1,807,637

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(ii) *Minor Forest Produce* :—

	Solid cubic feet
(*a*) Firewood from Crown Forest lands	1,160,250
(*b*) Firewood from privately owned Forest Lands	279,000
TOTAL ...	1,439,250

	Kgs
(*c*) Charcoal from Crown Forest Lands	50,250
(*d*) Charcoal from privately owned Forest Lands	800,000
TOTAL ...	850,250

Revenue and Expenditure.—During the financial year 1953–54 the Department was responsible for an expenditure of Rs 2,439,944. The revenue derived by the Department from the sale of forest produce and shooting and fishing leases during the same period amounted to Rs 1,396,191.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

General

The co-operative movement in Mauritius and Rodrigues comprises the Department of Co-operation, the Mauritius Co-operative Union Ltd., the Mauritius Co-operative Agricultural Federation Ltd., the Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., the Mauritius Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd. and, using figures as at the 31st December, 1954, 151 credit societies of unlimited liability, two credit societies of limited liability, 37 thrift and savings societies, 15 school savings banks, 68 co-operative retail stores, two marketing societies, two housing societies, one printing society, seven transport societies and one better-living society.

The Department of Co-operation is responsible for registration, audit, supervision and, when necessary, cancellation of registration. During 1954, twenty societies were registered and the registration of five societies was cancelled, making a total of 290 societies at the end of the year. The main effort of the Department was directed towards consolidation rather than expansion and to raising standards of management and book-keeping. Besides the Registrar of Co-oeprative Societies and his Deputy the staff included ten field officers.

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The Mauritius Co-operative Union Ltd, though registered in 1952, did not start to operate until mid-1953. By the end of 1954, with a membership of 170 societies, it had become an important feature of the co-operative movement. Its objects, among others, are to promote co-operation, to bring together co-operative institutions for common endeavour, to assist with supervision and audit and to represent the movement.

The Union's field staff (a secretary-supervisor and eight supervisors) worked under the control of the Department of Co-operation and proved of great assistance. In 1954 the Union's revenue amounted to Rs 42,732, derived from audit fees and contributions of societies, totalling Rs 20,232 and a Government grant-in-aid of Rs 22,500. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies is an *ex officio* member of the Union and President of the Union's Central and Executive Committees. The Deputy and two Co-operative Officers are also *ex officio* members.

The Mauritius Agricultural Federation Ltd., with a membership at the end of the year of 122 agricultural credit and marketing societies, provides a forum for discussion on agricultural topics and acts on behalf of its societies in agricultural matters. It retains the part-time services of a Barrister and a firm of Chartered Accountants and with their help was able to obtain good results for member societies in defending claims before the Central Arbitration Board of the Sugar Industry. Amongst its activities during the year was the setting up of a Tea Committee to study the problems of tea planter members of societies. The staff consists of a secretary and an assistant secretary.

The Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Ltd. was founded in 1948. It increased its membership during the year from 130 to 140 societies and its share capital and reserve funds from Rs 310,497 to Rs 435,062. Deposits amounted to Rs 1,713,962 as compared with Rs 197,096 in 1951. Loans granted in 1954 at 5½ per cent interest p.a. amounted to Rs 3,918,340 and there were no overdue loans at the end of the year.

Loans to member societies, comprised mostly of cane growers, are secured by a lien on the societies' sugar, all of which is sold through the Bank's broker.

The Mauritius Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd. with 67 member societies in 1954, had a turnover for the year ended the 31st December, 1954, of Rs 3,522,955. Stock at that date was

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Rs 118,930. The society's share capital and reserves increased from Rs 47,261 to Rs 72,369. Both the society and its member retail stores benefited from the increased volume of direct imports from overseas.

Credit Societies of Unlimited Liability

At the end of the year there were 131 credit societies of unlimited liability in Mauritius and 20 in Rodrigues. The majority of the members of the Mauritius societies are cane growers while those of the Rodrigues societies are mainly engaged in subsistence farming. In 1954 shares of Mauritius societies in the Central Bank amounted to Rs 224,979 while loans to members, secured by a lien on their crop, totalled Rs 3,918,000 as compared with Rs 4½ million in 1953. Payments to members for cane marketed through the agency of their societies rose from Rs 12½ million in 1953 to Rs 15½ million in 1954 and it is encouraging to note that deposits of members rose from Rs 117,000 to Rs 157,000. Share Capital and Reserve Funds of the societies were Rs 445,720 and Rs 730,371 respectively.

Credit Societies of Limited Liability

The two credit societies of limited liability, whose 37 members are fishermen, continued their operations in 1954 without any noteworthy change.

Thrift and Savings Societies

There were 37 thrift and savings societies in 1954 with a membership of 2,657 and savings of Rs 359,261. These figures compare favourably with the 1953 membership of 1,704 and savings of Rs 197,258. The Mauritius Police Co-operative Thrift Society Ltd. registered in 1954, became the first thrift society to have salary earners as members and deductions for savings at source.

School Savings Banks

Two school savings banks were registered in 1954 bringing the total to 15. By the end of the year savings amounted to Rs 28,893 as compared with Rs 16,670 in 1953. The Banks are popular with parents and children and receive good support from teachers. The Co-operative Central Bank supplies books free of charge from its Education Fund and, as a special concession to help the banks build up funds for communal activities, pays interest at 3½ per cent on their deposits.

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Co-operative Retail Stores

At the end of 1954 there were 68 co-operative retail stores with a membership of 9,323 and a turnover, for the ten months ending the 28th February 1954, of Rs 4,070,431. In 1953 there were 62 stores with 9,166 members and a turnover of Rs 4,204,752 for the twelve months ending the 30th April 1953. The increase in turnover was achieved with only a small increase in stock. The majority of societies made profits and a few have managed to purchase land and erect their own buildings. In others a low standard of management resulted in a poor service to members. A problem which remains to be overcome is that although the by-laws, in accordance with accepted co-operative doctrine, proivde that sales shall be for cash only, most sales are in fact on credit because of conditions prevailing in Mauritius. Societies however have been building up Mutual Aid Funds out of their profits as a possible answer to this problem.

Marketing Societies

One marketing society of 378 members markets ginger. The other, a milk marketing society of 613 members, suspended operations on account of losses due to inefficeint management and lack of support.

Housing Societies

There are 2 housing societies with a membership of 154. Though neither had started to operate by the end of the year arrangements were completed for one of the societies to start work with the help of the Government Architect's Department.

Printing Society

One co-operative printing society was registered in 1952 and has 834 members, a share capital of Rs 27,529 and a printing press in Port Louis. Rs 26,420 worth of printing business was carried out during the ten months ending the 28th February, 1954.

Transport Society

The number of co-operative transport societies increased from 2 to 7 and membership from 67 to 340. Paid up shares on the 31st December 1954 amounted to Rs 97,550. About 18,100 tons of sugarcane were transported from fields to factories during the 1954 crop. Six of the seven societies operated satisfactorily, but the seventh required frequent advice and assistance because of disagreements between the members.

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Better Living Society

One Co-operative Better Living Society is operating in Long Mountain. It has a kindergarten school for about 40 four-year old children and a sewing and dressmaking class. The kindergarten school is assisted by a small grant from the Village Council.

General

The financial statement of the Co-operative movement again shows a great expansion. Some comparative figures are of interest:—

	1953 *Rs.*	*1954* *Rs.*
Share Capital	863,566	1,071,918
Reserve Funds	809,202	1,127,285
Other Funds	53,345	93,017
Total Assets	7,660,074	7,586,529
Total Turnover	28,799,915	31,910,051
Total Societies	275	290
Total Members...	23,431	26,421
Goverment loans to societies ...	24,915	18,875

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Apart from the sugar, tea, tobacco and fibre industries discussed above, local industries of lesser importance comprise the manufacture of rum and wine, oil and soap, cigarettes, matches, aerated beverages, dairy produce, salt, lime and bricks.

Various small trades, including printing, tanneries, mechanical and electrical workshops, flourish in the Colony.

No event of importance affected the local industries during the year.

Expert advice on the production of pulp and paper from " bagasse " was obtained but no further step has yet been taken. The possibility of producing cement locally was also investigated.

The Customs Tariff Ordinance provides for exemptions from import duty in respect of machinery and apparatus intended solely for use in factories for the manufacture or preparation of most of the commodities which are produced in the Colony.

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Chapter 7—Social Services

EDUCATION

Organisation

The Education Department was reorganised in 1951. The department now consists of a Director, a Deputy Director, an Assistant Director for Primary Schools, an Assistant Director for Secondary Schools, the Principals of the three Government Secondary Schools and of the Teachers' Training College, a Youth Organizer, an Adult Education Officer, a Visual Education Officer and 9 Primary Schools' Inspectors. The teaching cadre on the secondary level consists of 62 Education Officers, 6 specialist teachers and 18 unqualified teaching assistants. The staff on the primary level comprises 149 Head Teachers and 1,786 assistant teachers. The Department also has the full-time services of a medical officer and of three dentists, all of whom are members of the Health Department.

The Director is assisted by a number of Standing Advisory Committees: the most important of these is the Education Committee, whose duty is to advise generally on questions connected with education in the Colony.

Educational Facilities

In the field of primary education, there are 151 primary schools providing free primary education to 71,072 pupils. Of these schools, 75 are Government schools, while the others are aided schools managed by four Educational Authorities (Roman Catholic, Church of England, Hindu, and Moslem) with the help of maintenance grants paid by the Department. There are, in addition, 95 private primary schools registered with the Department with a roll of 4,972 pupils. This number, added to the 4,721 pupils who are in the primary sections of the secondary schools, brings the total number of pupils receiving primary education to 80,765.

Teachers in aided schools are paid by the Department and are appointed, transferred and promoted by the Director on the recommendation of the responsible Authority. In 1952 each Educational Authority set up an Appointments and Promotions Board, consisting of three representatives of the Authority and two of the Education Department, to settle questions of teachers'

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appointment and promotion. A Primary Schools Promotion Board was set up at the same time for teachers in Government service.

In primary education the English pattern is followed, generally speaking, subject to adjustment to meet local conditions. Primary education is free and includes the issue of basic text books without charge.

A total of 118 Government scholarships are available either on a competitive basis or by award to needy pupils of deserving character. These scholarships, which provide free secondary education, free travelling, text books on favourable terms and a small money grant, are tenable at either Government or aided secondary schools.

Secondary education is almost exclusively of the grammar school type, leading to university courses. Government schools can meet only part of the demand and since 1951 the Department has therefore been subsidizing a number of private schools which can offer satisfactory guarantees of proper schooling up to School Certificate or Higher School Certificate level. There were at the end of the year 1,165 pupils in Government secondary schools compared with 1,859 in aided secondary schools and 8,543 in private secondary schools. These figures include 4,012 girls.

Apart from the College of Agriculture, there are no institutions in the Colony which can provide full-time post-secondary education and students desirous of following university and other post-secondary courses have to go overseas. There were 301 registered students pursuing their studies in the United Kingdom in 1954 and a few more were studying in France and India.

There is a Teachers' Training College through which all those wishing to teach in Government or aided Primary schools must pass. During the year 123 students were taking a two-year course and 58 a six-months' course, whilst 33 teachers took a one-term refresher course.

The greatest problem with which the Department has to cope is the increasing number of children of school-going age and the consequential rising demand for school places. Policy has necessarily been influenced both by this pressing demand for more school places and by the need for instruction in practical forms of education. There is an urgent need for more schools and more teachers and steps are being taken to meet the situation within the limits of the country's resources.

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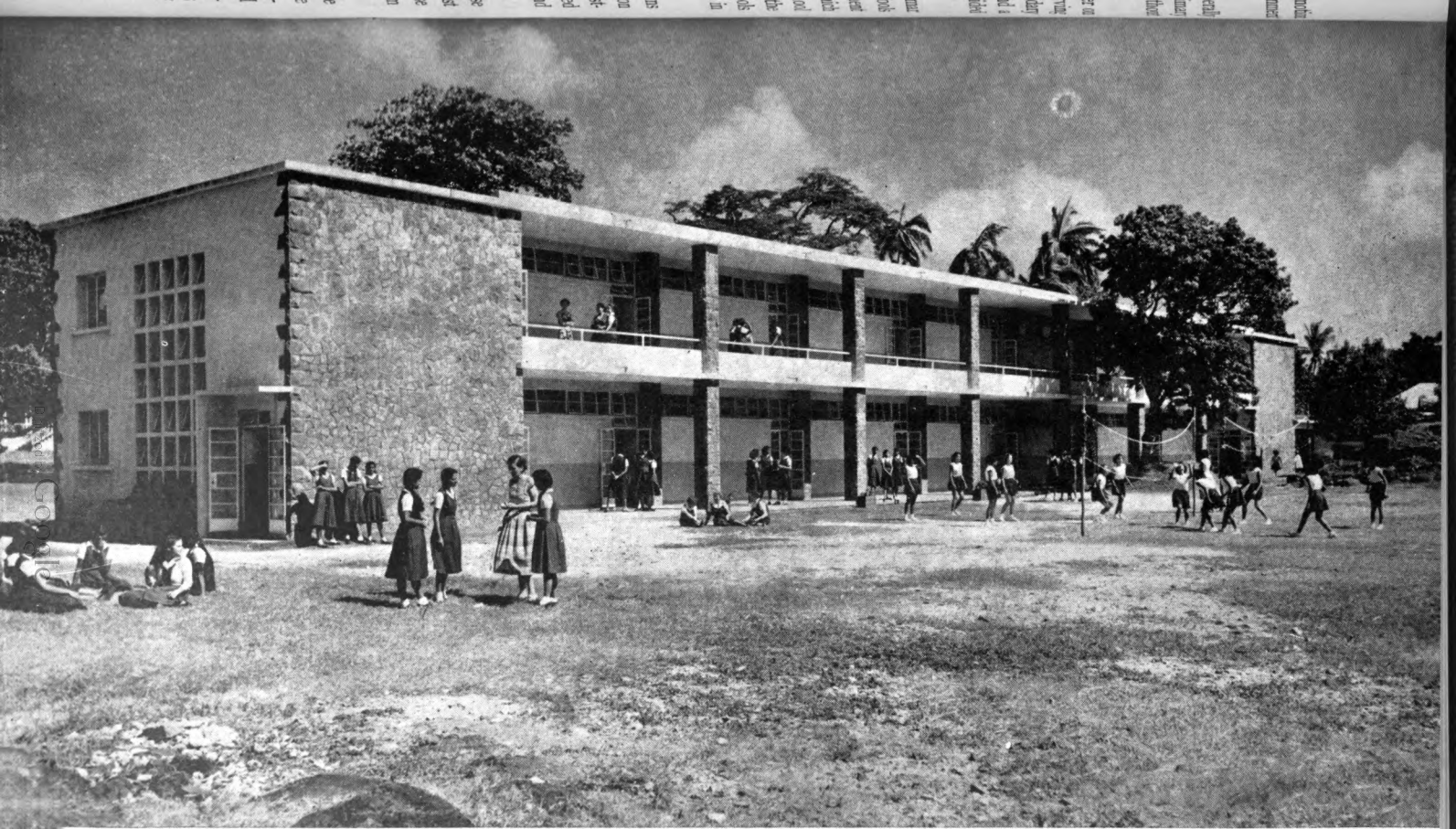

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Four new primary schools were built during the year providing accommodation for 1,584 children. Fully equipped handicraft rooms have been provided in 22 government and aided schools. A start has been made with a Senior School, intended for primary school leavers. The first block of buildings of Queen Elizabeth College, the Government Secondary School for girls, has been completed, whilst the extensions to the Teachers' Training College are also well advanced and only the Assembly Hall remains to be built.

Youth Organisation

There has been all-round development, particularly in the rural areas and in the expansion of girls' organisations. There are now 156 boys' and 66 girls' clubs affiliated to Youth Headquarters (Youth House). In addition there are 33 Scout Troops, 21 Guide companies and 11 Bluebird packs, all organised under their respective commissioners.

The activities of the Youth organisations are many and varied and include camping, games, tournaments, courses of instruction in drama, annual drama festivals, and training in first-aid, life-saving and youth leadership.

International goodwill has been stimulated by exchange visits with Madagascar and by the Colony's representation at the World Assembly of Youth, held in Singapore in August.

School Health Service

The School Health Service falls into two divisions: medical and dental. The staff comprises one Schools Medical Officer, three Schools nurses, three Government dentists with one clinical assistant each, and one Nutrition and Health Assistant.

School Medical Service

Entrants into all Government and aided primary schools and into Government secondary schools are medically examined. Free medical treatment is provided for primary school pupils.

The Schools Nurses carry out cleanliness and health surveys (including distance vision testing) in the primary schools. Free treatment is provided for head infestation.

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The Nutrition and Health Assistant helps the Schools Medical Service Staff. Her duties consist chiefly in delivering talks to senior pupils in primary schools and to mothers of school children, in weighing and measuring pupils, and in rendering assistance in connection with the School Milk Scheme, whereby all primary school children are eligible for a free ration of 200 ccs of skimmed milk mixture at school daily. In addition those requiring them receive free yeast tablets or halibut oil capsules.

A Mobile School Clinic fully equipped for medical, cleansing and nutrition work visits all the primary schools.

School Dental Service

This service treats primary school pupils only, but talks and demonstrations on oral hygiene are given in most schools by the Government dentists and teeth-cleaning drills are held regularly. Toothbrushes at a subsidised price are available for sale to pupils at primary schools.

Handicrafts

Great emphasis is placed on the teaching of handicrafts in primary schools and handicraft teaching is now also included in the curriculum of Government secondary schools.

In 1954 eleven new handicraft centres were opened in primary schools,making a total of twenty-two. Over 2,300 children attend handicraft classes, drawn from 39 schools.

There is a basic course in bookcraft for children of Standards IV to VI and in woodwork and metalwork for boys of Standard VI. Courses in basketry and needlework are available for girls.

Visual Aids

In 1954, 252 film shows were arranged for the benefit of pupils in 109 schools, chiefly primary. The Government secondary schools have their own projectors. The Department possesses 120 films and a further 200 films suitable for schools are obtainable from the Public Relations Office or the British Council.

Broadcasts for Schools

The proper expansion of this work is hindered by lack of the services of a full-time officer. It has been possible however to maintain regular programmes of English for the primary schools, a weekly music lesson, and some B.B.C. Transcription Service programmes of English literature for secondary schools.

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Further Education

Post-Primary Continuation Classes take place at eleven centres every day after school hours for 90 minutes. They are intended for young persons between 12+ and 14+ who wish to sit for the London Chamber of Commerce examinations in English, French and Mathematics. There are no fees.

Post-Secondary Continuation Classes give instruction in Book-keeping, Shorthand, Art, Music, Book-binding and Woodwork. Fees charged are Rs 9 for 12 lessons.

Science Extension Classes provide facilities for laboratory work in Chemistry, Physics and Biology to students reading for the London University Intermediate and Degree Examinations in General Science or for examinations in Pharmacy. Laboratory facilities are also available to pupils offering Science subjects in the General Certificate of Education and the Higher School Certificate. In 1954, there were 64 students in these Science Extension Classes which are held at the Royal College and the Royal College School. Fees are Rs 48 or Rs 60 per term per course of 40 sessions.

Grants have been made to 13 local authorities and religious organisations to enable them to hold adult literacy classes for the benefit of those wishing to become literate in English, French, Hindi or Urdu. Five centres with some 200 students have been opened in the northern districts.

Expenditure

Expenditure on education during the financial year 1953–54 amounted to Rs 12,374,848 or 13·09 per cent of the Colony's total budget of Rs 94,542,027.

Public Health

The striking improvement in health conditions during the past few years, is one of the most notable features in the recent history of Mauritius. The mortality figures were affected in 1953 by an epidemic of whooping cough and in 1954 by an epidemic of measles and also at the beginning of the hot season by a sharp outbreak of gastro-enteritis affecting mostly infants. The improvement in the maternal mortality rate is noteworthy.

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The following are the relevant statistics:—

Year	*Birth rate per °/₀₀*	*Death rate per °/₀₀*	*Infant Mortality rate per °/₀₀*	*Maternal mortality rate per °/₀₀ births*
1933 ...	34·7	27·3	131·5	9·9
1938 ...	33·4	29·9	162·5	11·38
1943 ...	33·1	25·9	141·5	5·14
1944 ...	43·52	27·1	141·0	8·73
1945 ...	38·3	36·1	188·0	14·96
1946 ...	38·7	29·5	145·2	10·39
1947 ...	43·8	20·1	113·9	5·25
1948 ...	43·1	23·8	186·2	4.13
1949 ...	46·0	16·6	91·0	3·79
1950 ...	49·7	13·9	76·3	3·51
1951 ...	47·5	14·9	83·5	3·24
1952 ...	48·0	14·8	80·8	3·2
1953 ...	46·3	16·1	93·5	2·71
1954 ...	41·3	16·0	81·1	1·7

The main factors responsible for bringing about such appreciable improvements have been the progressive elimination of the disease malaria as a result of the campaign which began soon after the end of the second world war, the higher standard of environmental hygiene, the absence of severe cyclones during the past nine years and the relative prosperity of the island's main industry which has facilitated an increase in expenditure on public health.

Malaria, which since 1953 has been included in the list of notifiable diseases, occupied up to 1945 the first place among causes of mortality. It now ranks with the very minor causes and the figures shown below indicate how dramatic the fall has been:—

Year	*Deaths ascribed to malaria*	*Rate per 0/00 population*	*Percentage of deaths due to malaria to total deaths*
1945 ...	3,534	8·34	23·13
1946 ...	2,918	6·88	23·29
1947 ...	1,782	4·12	20·53
1948 ...	1,580	3·58	15·02
1949 ...	936	2·11	12·68
1950 ...	388	0·83	6·01
1951 ...	285	0·59	3·95
1952 ...	188	0·37	2·52
1953 ...	61	0·12	0·73
1954 ...	27	0·05	0·32

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ENGINEERING WORKS ARE AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE CAMPAIGN FOR PROTECTING THE COUNTRY AGAINST MALARIA.
A VIEW OF THE LATANIER STREAM AFTER IT HAD BEEN CANALISED

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A reduction which appears just as spectacular is evident from the returns submitted by the hospitals of the Colony:—

Year	*Cases of malaria treated in hospitals*	*Deaths in hospitals*
1942 ...	5,014	110
1945 ...	3,244	148
1946 ...	2,522	106
1947 ...	1,989	76
1948 ...	1,576	66
1949 ...	804	43
1950 ...	209	10
1951 ...	98	4
1952 ...	3	Nil
1953 ...	Nil	Nil
1954 ...	3	Nil

As with malaria, there has been a steady decline in the number of deaths caused by the group of infective and parasitic diseases. After numbering 4,052 in 1948, 1,603 in 1949, the death figures fell to 863 in 1951, 713 in 1952, 980 in 1953 and 665 in 1954. The figures for 1953 and 1954 have been affected in the first case by an epidemic of whooping cough and in the second case by an epidemic of measles.

Another noteworthy feature is the reduction in the incidence of enteric fever: the incidence rate which was 1·478 per 1,000 of the population in 1946 and 0·936 in 1947 came down to 0·67 in 1951, 0·50 in 1952, 0·21 in 1953 and 0·16 in 1954. Vaccination against enteric fever is carried out on a fairly large scale and on the other hand the liberal use of chloramphenicol in the treatment of the disease has reduced the case mortality.

Mortality from the principal groups of diseases is hereunder summarised:—

Group	*Number of deaths*	*Rate per 0/00 of population*
(*a*) Infective and parasitic diseases	665	1·3
(*b*) Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs	560	1·1
(*c*) Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	470	0·9
(*d*) Diseases of the circulatory system	553	1·0
(*e*) Diseases of the respiratory system	1,206	2.3
(*f*) Diseases of the digestive system	1,747	3·3
(*g*) Diseases peculiar to the first year of life	677	1·3

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The functions of the Medical and Health Department are:—

(a) to investigate the influence of social, environmental and domestic factors on the incidence of human disease and disability ;

(b) to plan and carry out measures for the promotion of health ;

(c) to institute and maintain measures for the prevention of disease ;

(d) to provide a quarantine service to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases by sea or air ;

(e) to provide facilities for the treatment of disease, including mental disease, by maintenance of hospital and dispensary services;

(f) to make provision for the rehabilitation of the disabled ;

(g) to control the practice of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy ;

(h) to provide facilities for the training of nurses, midwives and sanitary officers ;

(i) to advise local authorities regarding their health services and to inspect those services ;

(j) to prepare and publish reports and statistical or other information relating to health.

The health facilities which were available in 1954 are tabulated hereunder:—

Medical and Health Staff	*Government*	*Private*
1. Registered doctors	41	49
2. Nurses of senior training	5	—
Nurses in hospitals	117	—
Dressers in hospitals	175	—
3. Superintendent of midwives	1	—
Midwives	68	—
4. Sanitary Inspectors	57	—
5. X—Ray Specialist	1	—
X—Ray Technician	1	—
6. Pharmacists	1	43
7. Dentists	3	26

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I. Government Institutions	*No. of Institutions*	*No. of beds*
1. General Hospitals	8	1,194
2. Dispensaries (including 2 in the Prisons) ...	47	—
3. Specialized Units :—		
(*a*) Maternity and Child Welfare Centres ...	8	—
(*b*) Maternity wards in hospitals	8	—
(*c*) Leprosarium	1	62
(*d*) Mental Hospital	1	693
(*e*) Orthopaedic Hospital	1	228
(*f*) Prisons Hospitals	2	73
4. Mobile Units :—		
(i) Dispensaries	4 units	
(ii) Ante-natal clinic	1 unit	
(iii) Dental Clinic	1 unit	
II. Private Institutions		
1. Sugar estates' hospitals	33	738
2. Sugar estates' dispensaries	8	
3. Nursing homes	5	53

Apart from the 36 rural dispensaries in the Colony, a mobile dispensary service comprising four units caters for the needs of 66 villages and hamlets.

Government expenditure on Medical and Health Services in the financial year 1953–54 was Rs 11,676,675 or 12·42 per cent of the total expenditure for the year. This represents a sum of Rs 22.24 per head of the estimated population at the 31st December, 1953 (mid-financial year). In addition expenditure under the Development and Welfare Plan (mainly on anti-malarial works) amounted to Rs 96,193.

The B.C.G. vaccination campaign continued: 15,735 persons were tested and 8,485 were vaccinated. During the year whooping-cough vaccination was also introduced on an island-wide scale.

Building and Planning

Architecture

Building activity has continued at a high rate and there has been a gradual improvement in design and technique. There appears to be a realization on the part of the public of the functions and status of the architect and of his contribution to the building process. Almost all buildings of importance are now designed by architects.

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Town Planning

During the year the Town Planning Ordinance became law. The Town Planning Board has held its first meeting, but the main planning work cannot begin until planning staff is available. However, it is hoped to run a pilot scheme in one area, in order to gain experience in the problems of planning administration.

Building Materials and Equipment

Good stocks of the more common types are held in stock by local suppliers and the prolonged dock strike in the United Kingdom led to comparatively little delay in building.

Building Construction

While there has been no major change in building techniques during the last year, the use of the " hollow tile " form of floor has been more widespread and these floors are now available to span up to 26 feet clear. Solid flat reinforced concrete roofs, which have been a feature of modern building here for a number of years, have been found to let in damp, to leak and to cause the rooms below to be very hot: attempts have been made to overcome these disadvantages by placing layers of insulation or heat-reflecting material on the roof. The first " built up " roof has been constructed, insulation and water-proofing being achieved by the use of layers of bitumen felt and fibreboard bonded together with bitumen adhesive laid on a reinforced concrete roof.

Building Works

One of the most outstanding feats of building this year has been the erection, in a space of four months, of the shell of the new Thermal Power Station in Port Louis, spanned by a series of large portal frames from wall to wall without intervening columns, which support a concrete shell roof.

In Curepipe, the building of blocks of flats above shops in the commercial centre was continued by a four storey block, notable for the quality of its design and workmanship. In Curepipe too, there has been a small exercise in monumental planning: the wide new street between the Town Hall and Church of St. Thérèse has now been flanked by a new building which displays evidence of craftsmanship and contrasts strongly with the austerity of the last

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fifteen years. A new two-storey office block has enhanced the Cathedral Square in Port Louis and the Warehouse and Offices of the Tobacco Board have been completed in the new industrial zone of Port Louis. In Rose Hill a new two-storey school of pleasant design is almost complete and at Belle Rose the columns of a mineral water factory of unusual construction are rising.

The boom in petrol stations and cinemas continues but saturation point must be near.

Housing

There has been a marked increase in housing activity by urban authorities. In Port Louis, where the housing problem is acute, the Muncipality have embarked on a scheme for building on a large number of small sites at the foot of Signal Mountain. In Quatre Bornes the first housing scheme has been a great success and the houses, mainly of medium size, are all let at economic rents. The tenants have shown considerable interest in their gardens, while the Town Council have laid out a sports field and planted small public open spaces. Encouraged by this success the Council have embarked on two more schemes, in which the level of rents has been brought within the reach of a workman or artisan. Rose Hill Council, too, have built on two sites but at a slower rate. On both sites, buildings in " No Fines " concrete, the only examples on the island, have been constructed. This technique seems to provide a successful and economical alternative to concrete blocks for low-cost housing projects where a large number of repetitive units are involved.

The problem of providing a proper home at an economic price in rural areas still remains to be solved.

Rates of interest on loans for house building are high and loans can only be obtained, even for fire-proof and cyclone-proof housing within a limit of half its value. An attempt to establish a co-operative society, lending up to 90 per cent of the value at a lower rate of interest, has not yet succeeded but it is hoped that the society will soon operate on a small scale.

Sugar estates now show a growing tendency to build houses for their labourers in permanent construction, usually in terraces.

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Government Buildings

Work started during the year on the new transmitter building for the Mauritius Broadcasting Service, police housing at Line Barracks, a number of new schools and a dispensary. The Police Training School has been completed and the Nurses Home at Candos is nearly finished. The Orthopaedic Hospital has been rising steadily throughout the year, but a good deal of work still remains to be done.

Public Assistance

Outdoor Relief

There was no change during the year in the number of Public Assistance Centres and sub-Centres throughout the Island, but a small readjustment of outdoor staff was found necessary in order to cope with the ever-increasing flow of applications for outdoor relief, and maintain a high standard of investigation and review.

New applications amounting to 6,379 were received in 1954, of which 4,906 were granted, while 3,947 allowances were withdrawn during the year. The total number of cases on roll at the 31st December, 1954, was thus 8,716 as compared with 7,757 at the end of the preceding year.

Apart from more generous discretionary allowances given in cases of prolonged illness, particularly in T.B. cases, there was no change in the basic scale rates as compared with 1953.

The total amount disbursed on outdoor relief in 1954 was Rs 2,092,673, the average monthly payment in December, 1954, being Rs 23.74 as against corresponding figures of Rs 1,949,126 and Rs 21.89 per month for 1953.

Relief in kind

Blankets are distributed to needy recipients of outdoor relief every two years, and flannels once a year in the winter season. The number and cost of these comforts provided in 1954, as compared with 1953 are as under:—

Year	*Flannels units*	*Blankets units*	*Total Cost* Rs
1953 ...	2,972	4,588	60,770
1954 ...	508	4,064	38,347

Spectacles to the value of Rs 1,659.20 were also issued in 1954, on the recommendation of the eye specialist, to recipients of Outdoor Relief and Old Age Pensions.

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HOUSES BUILT BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES UNDER THEIR HOUSING SCHEME

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Workrooms

Work in lieu of relief was provided for 61 persons, mostly widows with heavy family commitments, in the Department's Workrooms during the year 1954. Their total earnings, on a piece-work basis, amounted to Rs 64,882.56 as follows:—

	Rs cs
Laundry (in-workers)	16,823.22
Lingerie (out-workers)	11,687.72
Sergerie and Uniforms (in-workers) ...	36,371.62
	64,882.56

or an average monthly earning of Rs 88.64 per relief worker.

Indoor Relief

The number of persons in receipt of indoor treatment in the Infirmaries and Orphanages at the end of December 1954, was as under:—

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Infirms	372	267	639
Orphans	120	90	210

as compared with 614 Infirms and 199 Orphans at the end of 1953. The increase is due to the transfer to these Institutions of some mental cases from the Mental Hospital.

The capitation grant of Rs 1.10 per day for both adults and children still applies, and the usual additional Christmas and New Year grant of Rs 2 per inmate was paid in 1954.

Visits by members of Voluntary Organisations, the distribution of sweets and cigarettes, picnics and other forms of entertainment have now become a regular feature in the lives of the inmates, who appreciate very much these amenities.

Old Age Pensions

The reassessment of Old Age Pensions on the basis of the revised rate approved under Ordinance No. 21 of 1953 was continued during the first half of 1954. In addition 3,179 new applications were received, of which 3,017 cases were approved, while 2,422 pensions were struck off the Register. The total number of Old Age Pensions current at the end of December, 1954, was 17,995 at a cost of Rs 445,542 for that month as against corresponding figures of 17,747 pensions and Rs 402,331 for December, 1953.

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Repatriation

The total expenses incurred in 1954 for the repatriation of destitute Mauritians abroad and of destitute aliens in the Colony amounted to Rs 4,406.79. There was a total of 30 repatriates on record and repayments amounting to Rs 4,212.09 were effected by 15 liable parties in 1954.

Relief to destitute Mauritians abroad

Responsibility for this commitment was taken over by the Public Assistance Department with effect from the 1st July, 1954. Up to the end of the year, 8 single persons and one married couple were in receipt of "hard core" relief totalling Rs 8,260 approximately per annum.

SOCIAL WELFARE

Departmental Organisation

The department of Social Welfare was created in 1953. In addition to specific duties, it took over all the Welfare work hitherto performed by the Public Assistance Department. In particular responsibility for the Probation Service, the prevention of juvenile delinquency and the social work of the law courts was assigned to the new organisation. The department works in close association with the specialist departments of Government, with voluntary organisations and semi-governmental agencies. Particular mention may be made of its close collaboration with the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee which was set up in 1948 for the welfare of workers engaged in the sugar industry. This committee has substantial funds at its disposal, derived from a cess of sixpence on every hundredweight of sugar purchased by Her Majesty's Government under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement.

Social Welfare Centres

The Labour Welfare Fund Committee has now completed the construction of 10 centres, known as Social Welfare Centres. With the creation of 5 more, now under active consideration, its original scheme of equipping the countryside with a network of 15 Centres at key points will be fully implemented. It is the responsibility of the Social Welfare Department to stimulate the development of these Centres so that they can come to play in time an effective part in the promotion of the well-being of the

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rural community, and in their educational, cultural and general social development. At present the major activities relate to the provision of medical care in the form of ante-natal and post-natal services, child services and the regular distribution of milk. The midwifery service is being further developed: midwives' quarters are being built on the Centre's premises, and the Medical Services have agreed to provide two midwives for each Centre. A doctor visits each Centre every week. Milk distribution was extended recently as a result of a large free supply of condensed milk from the United Kingdom.

Recreational facilities for both adults and children are also provided, and sports, games, and musical concerts are held from time to time. In some Centres a beginning has been made with adult education in a simplified form, and all forms of group and communal activities, such as community listening, are encouraged. Increasing use is being made of visual forms of education and mobile educational units visit the Centres periodically.

Welfare Months

A notable development in the general work of promoting self-help and voluntary effort has been the institution of " Welfare Months." A particular village, where problems are especially acute, is selected and is, so to say " taken into care " by representatives of statutory and voluntary bodies working as a team and seeking to impart the benefit of their knowledge and advice to villagers for the solution of their village problems and for the promotion of the villagers' own individual welfare. The intention is to reach in an intensive way as large numbers of people as is possible and by means of talks, demonstrations, lectures, poster exhibitions and the like to catch the imagination and divert attention to the problems of the village and their own well-being. These talks cover a variety of subjects ranging from improved methods of agriculture, soil erosion and animal husbandry to environmental and personal hygiene, the fight against diseases, mothercraft and child care.

This method of mass contact, supplemented by group and case work done through Women's Associations, Boys' Clubs, Parent-Teachers' Associations, etc., has produced good results and will be continued.

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Team Meetings

To stimulate further the spirit of self-help and to keep up villagers' enthusiasm, it has been found advisable to bring field officers of the various specialist departments together to work as one unit in the village under the Civil Commissioner. This administrative device is still in its experimental stage, but an appreciable number of small problems of immediate practical importance are put to these " team meetings."

Housing

One significant advance has been the construction by the Labour Welfare Fund Committee of a small housing estate in the North of the Island as a first step in the housing of agricultural workers and in the easing, generally, of the acute housing shortage. This housing estate comprises 50 small houses of 2 rooms each of the semi-permanent type built on about 6½ acres of land adjoining a newly built local Government school and a Social Welfare Centre. The houses are now ready for occupation on the points system and the allocation has been made.

Women's Welfare

A great impetus is now being given to the promotion of the welfare of women in the rural areas. The Labour Welfare Fund pays for the services of two dressmakers who teach sewing, cutting and dressmaking to women. Women are also encouraged to form themselves into associations or institutes as additional means by which they can foster their own welfare and promote their own interests. Talks on child care, personal hygiene and other subjects are arranged for them. The emphasis is particularly on child care and, to keep up their interest in this direction, children's parties and baby shows are held from time to time. Training in handicrafts and embroidery work, is also given. Contacts are maintained with the National Federation of Women's Institutes in the United Kingdom which helps with advice and supply of literature.

Community Centres

Most of the community centres are equipped with wireless sets for community listening. Books and musical instruments are also supplied for cultural and recreational purposes. Indo-Mauritians of the Hindu faith have a traditional Indian social institution known under the name of " baitkas " (literally " a sitting place ").

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These " baitkas " are community centres whose emphasis is on cultural activities and other aspects of community life. A survey of the " baitkas " was made and some have been equipped with wireless sets and provided with other facilities.

The Labour Welfare Fund has now before it for consideration a comprehensive scheme for the construction of suitable community centres and the general expansion of community activities.

Community Development

A start was made in 1952 with community development work at Crêve Coeur, a village in the North of the Island. Good initial progress has been made and a piped water supply has been provided, largely through the efforts of the people. In addition a co-operative shop and a Better Living Society have been established, and a cremation ground has been donated by a local resident. An initial survey made revealed the existence of a number of water-borne and other diseases. A campaign for greater personal and environmental hygiene is now in progress under the joint auspices of the Social Welfare Department and the Schools Medical Officer and his staff. As more trained staff and resources become available, the stimulation of community development will gather greater momentum.

Treatment of Offenders

The probation system, introduced in the island in 1946, has made satisfactory progress. Probation applies to both juveniles and adults and it is worthy of note that more adults than juveniles pass through the hands of Probation Officers. A certain amount of social work connected with the courts, (e.g. settling of matrimonial disputes, handling of difficult children, etc.), is also undertaken by Probation Officers, many of whom have been trained in the United Kingdom.

The Probation Service pays particular attention to the prevention of delinquency. To occupy the leisure time of youths in villages, Probation Officers now urge them to make use of the available facilities in Social Welfare Centres.

Probationers are now required to report to Probation Officers in Social Welfare Centres, wherever these exist, instead of going all the way to the Court house. In a Welfare Centre the Probation Officer can spend more time with the individual delinquent child and is in a better position to plan rehabilitation measures.

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A Probation Hostel for boys was set up in May, 1954. Its management committee includes representatives of the various communities of the Island. There are at present 10 boys, all of whom are regularly employed and their earnings are used to supplement the funds for the running of the hostel. Voluntary workers are helping the management committee in many ways. Informal education in the three R's is provided by a voluntary teacher, the honorary medical officer sits on the management committee and the junior section of the British Red Cross is holding a training course.

In the wider field of welfare, the Social Welfare Department has made a survey of the football field requirements of the Island. Financial assistance is being provided by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee for the scheme, which will be implemented in co-operation with District Administration and the Education Department. This scheme, it is expected, will greatly assist in the prevention of delinquency.

Voluntary Organisations

One of the duties of the Social Welfare Department is to foster and promote the growth of voluntary organisations, for without their help and co-operation social work cannot progress with the desired momentum. A number of voluntary organisations, mostly connected with women's welfare, have come into being as a result. An association connected with women's welfare which has continued to make progress is the Mauritius Healthy Babies Society whose aim is principally the dissemination of knowledge in baby care and mothercraft in the rural areas.

The Department keeps in constant touch with all voluntary organisations and with this object in view it organizes conferences for their benefit whenever circumstances permit. Such a conference was held in October, 1954, when about 70 voluntary social workers and others attended.

VISIT

Mr. H. Dahl, Travelling Scout Commissioner and member of the Secretary of State's Advisory Committee on Social Development, spent about a week in Mauritius.

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Chapter 8—Legislation

Forty-three Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council and assented to by the Governor during the year 1954. These Ordinances deal principally with matters of domestic concern and the most important of them are:—

1. The Transport of Heavy Goods (Saint Félix Exemption) Ordinance, 1954. (No. 1 of 1954).

The immediate object of this Ordinance is to exempt the Saint Félix Sugar Estate from the provisions of the Transport of Heavy Goods Ordinance (which gives Government the exclusive right to haul or contract for the haulage of sugar or certain other heavy goods) as a fact finding experiment connnected particularly with advisability or inadvisability of giving up the transport of heavy goods by rail, and more generally with the future of the railway.

2. The Town and Country Planning Ordinance, 1954. (No 6 of 1954).

This Ordinance has for object to make provision for the orderly and progressive development of land, towns and other areas, whether urban or rural.

3. The Valuation of Property (Sewerage) Ordinance, 1954. (No. 7 of 1954).

This Ordinance was passed to authorise the survey and valuation of immovable property and the requisitioning of information required for the making of assessments in connection with any sewerage scheme. It was especially designed to facilitate the assessment of rental values in connection with the proposed sewerage scheme in the district of Plaines Wilhems.

4. The Criminal Appeal Ordinance, 1954. (No. 9 of 1954).

This Ordinance establishes a Court of Criminal Appeal in criminal matters dealt with by the Supreme Court in its original jurisdiction.

5. The District Courts (Civil Jurisdiction) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1954. (No. 10 of 1954).

The main object of this Ordinance is to increase the civil jurisdiction of the District Courts, by bringing within the cognizance of the Magistrate, suits, the subject matter of which does not exceed Rs 3,000 (instead of Rs 1,000 as theretofore).

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6. The Courts (Amendment) Ordinance, 1954. (No. 12 of 1954).

The main amendments made by this Ordinance to the Courts Ordinance are the following:—

(1) the jurisdiction in civil actions of a judge of the Supreme Court sitting alone is increased so as to bring within his cognizance suits, the subject matter of which does not exceed Rs 7,000 (instead of Rs 3,000 as theretofore) ;

(2) to make the reference of matters enumerated in article 83 of the Code of Civil Procedure discretionary for the judges instead of compulsory ;

(3) to restore the provision that no person should qualify for appointment as a Magistrate who has not been called to the degree of The Utter Bar, which had been repealed by Ordinance No. 35 of 1937.

7. The Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 1954. (No. 13 of 1954).

The most noteworthy amendments made by this Ordinance to the Criminal Procedure Ordinance concern the provision relating to the probation of offenders. As the law stood, the Court could, in cases where such provision applied, release an accused party on probation without proceeding to conviction. Difficulties had arisen as a result, where proceedings had been taken against civil servants with a view to securing their dismissal under the Colonial Regulations. An order of probation not being in law a conviction, the civil servant, although the charge had been proved against him, could not be dismissed. The amendment ensures that, in all cases where the Court is satisfied that the charge is proved, it should proceed to conviction.

8. The Dangerous Drugs (Amendment) Ordinance, 1954. (No. 14 of 1954).

This Ordinance tightens the control over the supply of dangerous drugs by providing that where the drug is packed in ampoules, the prescription for the supply thereof should specify either the total amount of the drug to be supplied or the total amount to be administered or injected.

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9. The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Ordinance, 1954. (No. 15 of 1954).

This Ordinance amends the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance so as to include within its scope locally engaged persons in the civil employment of Her Majesty otherwise than in Her Government of the Colony.

10. Teachers' Pensions (Reckonable Service) Ordinance, 1954. (No 19 of 1954).

This Ordinance provides that in the computation of any pension to be granted to a teacher who, after the first of January, 1945 has retired or retires from the public service, the preceding service of that teacher in an Aided School shall be taken into account.

11. The Road Traffic (Amendment) Ordinance, 1954. (No. 20 of 1954).

By this Ordinance the Transport Control Board (which formerly was also the Licensing Authority) is suppressed and is replaced by:—

(1) the Transport Advisory Board ; and

(2) The Licensing Authority.

The idea is to make separate the two main functions of the Traffic Control that is, questions of policy and licensing arrangements. The Ordinance has also for object to induce individual bus owners to form themselves into companies, and bus companies to amalgamate so as to reduce their number.

12. The Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1954. (No. 24 of 1954).

The object of this Ordinance is to secure a higher standard of auditing of the accounts of public companies by making it compulsory for these companies to employ properly qualified auditors.

13. The Court Fees (Amendment) Ordinance, 1954. (No. 25 of 1954).

The object of this Ordinance is to revise the fees payable by litigants in order to increase the general revenue of the Colony, and to make in the first schedule to the Court Fees Ordinance, 1946, alterations which had become necessary owing to the change in the

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value of money and to the increase of the jurisdiction of Magistrates from Rs 1,000 to Rs 3,000 in civil cases effected by the Courts (Amendment) Ordinance, 1954.

14. The Customs Tariff Ordinance, 1954. (No. 26 of 1954).

This Ordinance amends and consolidates the law relating to customs tariff. The classification of goods has been reshuffled on the lines of the standard international trade classification produced by the United Nations Organisation with a view to obtaining uniformity in national trade statistics.

Certain industries such as the agricultural, tanning and live-stock industries, and the local manufacture of rubber shoes are encouraged by the exemption from duty of materials and articles imported for use in such industries.

15. The Civil Establishment Ordinance, 1954. (No. 27 of 1954).

This Ordinance provides for the establishment of officers in the public service, for the number and remuneration of public officers, and for purposes connected therewith. With the introduction of new salary and salary scales as part of an integrated salary structure of the civil service, it had become necessary to secure ways and means to safeguard it from disorganisation by piecemeal alterations made without an opportunity for consideration and coordination. This Ordinance seeks to achieve this end.

16. The Employees Superannuation Fund Ordinance, 1954. (No. 28 of 1954).

The object of this Ordinance is to enable any employer in private enterprise to set up funds under the control and supervision of the Registrar of Associations for the superannuation of his employees. Need was felt for encouraging the setting up of such funds, designed to promote habits of thrift and prudence and to protect persons whose livelihood depends upon their capacity to earn salaries and wages at a time when their earning capacity is reduced by age or impaired by illness.

17. The Population (Statistics) Ordinance, 1954. (No. 31 of 1954).

This Ordinance gives effect to a recommendation of the Statistical Commission of the United Nations Organisation by providing that the following additional information considered

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necessary for the improvement and standardisation of vital statistics be included in birth certificates: the age of the mother, the number of children born to the mother, and the duration of the marriage.

18. The Agricultural Bank (Amendment) Ordinance (No. 34 of 1954).

The objects of this Ordinance are *(a)* to increase by Rs 5,000,000 the sum which the Mauritius Agricultural Bank may raise by the issue of debentures, and *(b)* to authorise the Bank to approve loans for the repair and improvement of buildings in any year to an amount not exceeding a percentage of the amount of loans approved by the Bank in the same year for the erection of buildings.

19. The Trade Union Ordinance, 1954, The Trade Disputes Ordinance, 1954. (Nos. 36 and 37 of 1954).

The objects of these Ordinances are to provide new and modern legislation governing the establishment, registration and functioning of trade unions in the Colony in the place of the Industrial Associations Ordinance, and to replace the law relating to trade disputes in the Colony (Ordinance No. 68 of 1947) by more effective legislation consistent with modern ideas and present day conditions.

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Chapter 9—Justice, Police and Prisons

Justice

The Laws of Mauritius are mainly based on the French Codes. The French Civil Code, Penal Code, Code of Commerce and Code of Civil Procedure, with such amendments as have been made thereto to suit local conditions, are still to a large extent in force in the Island. There is also a great number of ordinances.

The Bankruptcy Law, the Law of Evidence and the Law of Criminal Procedure are, however, mostly English as is the whole system of the labour laws.

The highest judicial authority is the Supreme Court of Judicature presided over by the Chief Justice assisted by three Puisne Judges.

The executive officer of that Court is the Master and Registrar who is also a Judge of the Bankruptcy Division of the Court.

The Supreme Court is a superior court of record and has the same powers, authority and jurisdiction as the High Court of Justice in England.

It exercises jurisdiction in divorce matters, and Admiralty jurisdiction in virtue of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act 1890 and is also a Court of Equity. It has powers of supervision over all the other courts of the Colony and hears appeals from the Supreme Court of the Colony of Seychelles.

Appeals lie to the Privy Council in certain cases against judgments of the Supreme Court.

The Judges of the Supreme Court preside over the Assize Court, the verdict being returned by a jury of nine men ; the decision must be that of at least seven out of the nine members.

With effect from the 1st of January, 1955, there will be a Court of Criminal Appeal. The Chief Justice and the Judges of the Supreme Court will be the Judges of that Court which will be constituted by three Judges. That Court will, in certain cases, hear appeals from persons convicted by the Supreme Court.

The District Magistrates of the Colony have jurisdiction in civil cases in which the subject matter does not exceed three thousand rupees in value. They hold judicial enquiries in cases of accidental death or of fire, and preliminary enquiries in cases triable at the Assize Court. In addition they deal with certain matters in chambers.

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The summary jurisdiction of the District Courts in criminal matters is vested in a District Magistrate who deals with the less serious offences and is empowered to sentence an accused party to imprisonment with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding one year, and to a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees.

Certain offences may be tried by an intermediary court consisting of a bench of three Magistrates who can impose a sentence of penal servitude of not more than three years and a sentence of imprisonment of not more than two years, and who can also impose any fine not exceeding the maximum provided by law for the offence dealt with by them.

The number of Magistrates is now 12. One of them, who is also the Civil Commissioner for Rodrigues, administers justice in that Dependency.

A visiting Magistrate inspects once annually each of the Lesser Dependencies.

There is in addition an Industrial Court which is presided over by a Magistrate and which has jurisdiction in all labour disputes including workmen's compensation cases and matters arising out of factory legislation.

The administrative control over the Magistracy has, since 1945, been vested in the Chief Justice.

The majority of the civil cases brought before District Courts concern claims for money, or possession of tenement, or ownership of land.

On the criminal side, most of the cases, other than petty breaches of the law, relate to offences involving fraud, e.g. larceny, embezzlement, or swindling, or offences against the person, e.g. wounds and blows, or attempts on chastity, or breaches of the road traffic laws.

There were 618 cases entered before the Supreme Court as compared with 516 in 1953.

2,126 cases were entered before the Industrial Court as against 1,232 in 1953.

4,097 civil cases and 36,147 criminal cases were heard by the District Courts during the year.

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Police

Functions

The functions of the Mauritius Police Force are prescribed by Section 14 of the Police Ordinance and include the following duties: preserving the public peace ; preventing and detecting crimes, misdemeanours, contraventions ; regulating traffic ; executing warrants and summonses issued by the Courts.

Strength

The Police Force consists of a Commissioner of Police and of such other Officers, Non Commissioned Officers and Constables as may be determined by the Governor from time to time with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Organisation

The Mauritius Police Force has an authorised establishment of 28 Officers and 1,066 other ranks. In addition, there are 25 Police Women who are employed on clerical work.

In addition to their primary responsibility for preventing and detecting crimes and for maintaining law and order, the Police are responsible for the control of immigration and emigration, weights and measures, issuing of licences (motor vehicles, drivers, liquor, firearms, etc.), the collection of inland revenue, the supervision of licensed premises and other extraneous duties.

The Constables are trained in foot and baton drill and a number of selected personnel in each District and at Headquarters are trained in the use of tear smoke.

The Commissioner of Police, assisted by the Deputy Commissioner of Police and other Officers, has his Headquarters at Line Barracks in Port Louis.

The personnel of the Force is distributed among:—

(a) Police Headquarters and the following branches:

(i) Criminal Investigation and Revenue and Liquor Branch

(ii) Pay and Quartermaster's Branch

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(iii) Road Traffic Branch

(iv) Training School and Reserve

(v) Forensic Science Laboratory

(vi) Band

(vii) Water Police

(viii) Rodrigues Police

(ix) Railway Police

(b) Six Police Districts controlling 48 Police stations and posts.

The Criminal Investigation Department

This Branch is responsible for the investigation of serious crimes and cases of a special nature such as frauds and defalcations ; it also affords assistance to the District Police when necessary and collates the statistics of crime for the whole island.

To the C.I.D. are attached the Finger Print and *Modus Operandi* Bureau, the Photographic Section, the Immigration and Passport Section, the Central Registry of Habitual Criminals and the Revenue and Liquor Branch.

Finger Print and Modus Operandi Bureau

130 scenes were visited by the staff and articles bearing finger prints were brought to the Finger Print Office by the District Police in 125 cases. Decipherable prints were found in 63 cases.

19 identifications were made. In 5 cases finger prints were the sole evidence available against the accused parties.

In 8 cases, documents bearing finger prints were referred to the Finger Print Office and in 6 cases identity was established.

The finger print slips of 11,434 criminals (males and females) are on record.

The scene of crime collection contains 104 photographs of unidentified prints found at scenes of crime.

The palm print collection contains 1,721 records.

862 criminals showing a distinctive *modus operandi* are registered in a method index.

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The Photographic Section

47 scenes of crime and 94 fatal or serious accidents, 12 unidentified bodies, and 488 criminals were photographed.

Immigration and Passport Section

During the year, 1,070 passports were issued, 227 renewed and 176 visaed. 149 Emergency Certificates of Nationality were issued and 123 Forms of affidavit in lieu of pasports were registered. 6 collective passports and 21 Seamen's Certificates of Nationality and Identity were issued.

The immigration staff attended 338 ships arriving in port and 196 aircrafts at Plaisance Airport.

6,953 persons entered the Colony, including 116 immigrants and 7,045 left the Colony including 159 emigrants.

Supervision of Habitual Criminals

Supervision is maintained over habitual criminals and bad characters who are sentenced to police supervision by the courts. There were 2,058 re-convicted male criminals in the island including 59 first offenders re-convicted during the year.

Revenue and Liquor Section

This section controls the collection of inland revenue and for that purpose keeps a card index record of all trade licences issued quarterly. Regular checks of licensed premises are effected by the personnel of the section, whose duties also include the prevention and detection of offences against the Distillery, Liquor, Dangerous Drugs, and Weights and Measures laws. The section also pays particular attention to the detection of opium offences, illicit distillation of spirits and to the prevention of gambling in private clubs.

Pay and Quartermaster's Branch

Under the charge of the Pay and Quartermaster of the Force, this branch is divided into two sections: the Pay Section and the Store Section, the latter under the special charge of the Assistant Pay and Quartermaster.

The Pay Section is responsible for all the finance and accounting of the Force and for the collection of inland revenue ; the Store Section deals with the indenting of materials, the manufacture and issue of uniforms for all ranks, and the supply generally of stores and accoutrements to the Force.

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Road Traffic Branch

Police vehicles in use:—

Motor cycles (solos)	22
Land Rovers	8
Vans and light trucks	11
Prisoners' Vans	3
Lorries	5
Motor cars...	8
Cyclemaster	1

Motor Cycle Patrols

With effect from the 1st July, the Traffic Branch was given the specific charge of the main road traversing the island from the Air Port through Curepipe, Rose Hill, Beau Bassin and Port Louis, as far as Pamplemousses. Special motor cycle courtesy patrols were organised and the results have been satisfactory. Accidents have been reduced from 597 in 1953 to 548 for the corresponding period in 1954. 17,242 drivers, cyclists and pedestrians have been stopped and advised by the motor cycle patrols, whose advice has generally been accepted with good grace. 453 prosecutions were entered by the patrols.

The Traffic Branch set up a road safety exhibition at the *"Exposition des Maisons Claires"* in October and an attendance of 9,357 visitors witnessed the various exhibits, which included a brake reaction test, a safety film and a film strip, and lectures on road safety.

The Police Garage, with a staff of one Sub-Inspector, one Corporal and 15 Constables, is kept fully employed.

A Drawing Office with a qualified draughtsman in charge is also attached to this branch.

Training School

Recruits from among young men of the local population are enlisted between the ages of 18 and 25 after undergoing educational and medical examinations. Selections are made by a Board of Officers appointed and convened for the purpose.

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The School aims at training the members of the Force on the same lines as in England, and at inculcating in them tact, patience, tolerance, good humour, initiative and ability to rely on their own judgment and resources.

The normal period of training of recruits at the Training School is six months, which affords time to give adequate instruction in laws, police duties and procedure, general knowledge, first aid, elementary drill, riot drill and physical training.

Recruits undergo theoretical training for the first three months and practical training, including station and street duties, during the second half of their period at the School.

The Band

The Mauritius Police Band, which was first established in 1921, is a full military brass band, composed of trained musicians. A dance orchestra was formed in 1947 from among members of the Band.

The Water Police

The unit comprises one Corporal and nine Constables and is equipped with a 15 H.P. motor launch suitable for use only within the harbour. In December, 1954, the launch was equipped with radio. The unit, which is under the orders of the Superintendent of Police, Port Louis, performs regular patrols in Port Louis harbour to maintain law and order and to enforce harbour regulations. Its duties also include: preventing persons from stowing away ; assisting in the enforcement of immigration and quarantine laws ; supervising the unloading of cattle, and preventing smuggling.

During 1954, the Police launch attended 341 ships which entered the harbour.

Maintenance of the launch, which includes periodical overhaul on the slip, is carried out by the crew assisted by mechanics of the Traffic Branch.

The Rodrigues Police

The Rodrigues Police, commanded by an Assistant Superintendent, are responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the dependency. The establishment is 1 Officer and 28 other ranks.

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The Railway Police

1 Sub-Inspector, 1 Sergeant and 6 Constables are attached to the Railway Department as a special Force to deal with offences committed on the Railway.

The Forensic Science Laboratory

This important institution of the Force was established in 1938 and maintains a high degree of professional competence. It is under the charge of the Police Medical Officer, assisted by a suitable trained staff.

The Forensic Science Laboratory deals with the scientific examination of exhibits, including the examination of documents and identification of handwriting and typewriting in relation to cases of forgery and kindred offences. It also deals with any other aspect of crime requiring scientific investigation.

Lectures on medical jurisprudence, first aid and hygiene are delivered regularly by the Police Medical Officer.

First Aid—St. John Ambulance Association

Courses of instruction in First Aid are given to members of the Force, the Railway Department and the Fire Service. All lectures are delivered by qualified Medical Officers or lay lecturers with the assistance of instructors for practical demonstration in accordance with the regulations of the St. John Ambulance. Examinations were held during the year ; 383 members of the Police Force are now qualified and hold the St. John's certificate.

A Mauritius Police Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade has been formed and registered at the Overseas Headquarters in England.

Home Nursing Division

The Home Nursing Division which was registered and approved on the 1st April 1952 has a strength of 25.

Games, Recreation and Welfare

As much time as possible is devoted to the playing of games and to recreation generally. The Force possesses good football, volley ball and hockey teams. Inter-District and friendly matches with local teams are frequently played.

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The Officers, Inspectorate, N.C.Os and Constables each have their own mess and recreation rooms.

A well-stocked canteen is open to all ranks of the Force.

The Police Band contributes to official and semi-official functions in the various messes and institutions of the Force.

A library and reading room is open daily to members of the Force and to public subscribers. Books, reviews, and newspapers are regularly imported and are circulated throughout the Colony among members of the Force posted at out-stations in the country districts.

The stock of English and French books in the Library is 11,812.

A Police Federation of all ranks from Inspector to Constables exists for the consideration of any matters concerning the welfare and efficiency of its members, other than matters of discipline and promotion affecting individuals.

Firearms

Firearms are strictly controlled. The number of firearms licensed during the year was 5,715.

Police Reserve and Special Constables

In accordance with Section 47 of the Police Ordinance, special constables may be appointed at any time. With the approval of the Governor, a Police Reserve consisting principally of retired Police and service Officers has been enrolled and is available for mobilization at short notice. The officers of the Police Reserve are appointed to command special constables registered at each District or Police Station area on a pattern similar to the regular Police.

The function of the Reserve is to provide a cadre of steady and reliable citizens to augment the regular Police and to release trained policemen from routine duties in an emergency.

Crimes

The total numbers of offences reported in 1954 were:—

Crimes	929
Misdemeanours ...	17,477
Contraventions ...	39,567

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TABLE I

Cases Reported to and dealt with by the Police in 1954

Offences	Total reported during 1954	Pending Investigation at 31.12.54	Not taken to Court				Taken to Court				
			Total	Civil; no case in law or found false	Evidence insufficient, Arrival or undetected	Accused dead or insane	Total	Convicted	Dismissed	Nolle prosequi	Awaiting trial at 31.12.54
Against Lawful Authority											
Perjury	17	—	2	1	1	—	15	14	—	—	1
Riots, illegal strikes and breaches of the peace	17	1	2	1	1	—	14	10	4	—	—
Effecting public mischief	10	—	—	—	—	—	10	3	3	—	4
Assault against public functionary causing effusion of blood or with premeditation or lying in wait	5	—	—	—	—	—	5	5	—	—	—
Outrage and assault against public functionary	219	10	28	7	21	—	181	133	10	—	38
Against Public Morality											
Rape and attempt upon chastity	46	4	22	10	12	—	20	15	4	—	1
Sodomy and bestiality	8	—	4	3	1	—	4	3	1	—	—
Sexual intercourse with female under 12 years	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	1
Gross indecent act in public	89	3	25	8	17	—	61	34	19	—	8
Against the Person											
Murder and manslaughter	7	2	1	1	—	—	4	3	—	—	1
Poisoning	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abortion	2	—	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wounds and blows causing death or loss of limb or eye	9	—	2	—	2	—	7	5	—	—	2
Abduction of minors	3	—	3	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abandoning child by guardian	3	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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TABLE I—*continued*

Offences	*Total reported during 1954*	*Pending Investigation at 31.12.54*	*Not taken to Court*				*Taken to Court*				
			Total	*Civil; no case in law or found false*	*Evidence insufficient, trivial or undetected*	*Accused dead or insane*	*Total*	*Convicted*	*Dismissed*	*Nolle prosequi*	*Awaiting trial at 31.12.54*
AGAINST THE PERSON—*continued*											
Serious wounds and blows	80	4	20	—	20	—	56	45	1	—	10
Simple wounds and blows	10,783	473	8,285	40	8,245	—	2,025	1,478	151	—	396
Involuntary wounds and blows	163	4	33	6	26	1	126	86	17	—	23
False and malicious denunciation in writing	23	1	1	—	1	—	21	10	3	—	8
AGAINST PROPERTY											
Larceny night breaking	168	24	82	4	77	1	62	49	1	—	12
Larceny with violence	88	10	59	34	25	—	19	15	1	—	3
Larceny armed with offensive weapon ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Other larcenies with aggravating circumstances	283	28	93		78	—	162	118	4	—	40
Arson	8	3	5	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Criminal damage to property	2	—	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	—
Poaching	29	1	16	2	14	—	12	10	1	—	1
Larceny praedial	166	11	78	17	61	—	77	55	7	—	15
Larceny bicycle	749	79	607	308	301	—	61	52	2	—	7
Larceny simple	2,401	217	1,573	354	1,216	3	611	484	46	—	81
Larceny of fowls	145	8	95	11	84	—	42	35	1	—	6
Receiving stolen property	37	5	10	7	3	—	22	15	3	—	4
Swindling	135	25	78	36	41	1	32	18	2	—	12
Forgery	55	14	13	2	11	—	28	17	—	—	11
Embezzlement by public servant or person in service receiving wages, or clerk etc. and simple embezzlement ...	605	56	426	323	103	—	123	72	10	—	41

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AGAINST THE PENAL CODE											
Personation	9	2	4	1	3	—	3	2	—	—	1
Bribery by public functionary	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Bribing public functionary	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Coinage	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
Vagrancy	190	11	96	38	55	3	83	69	5	—	9
Extortion	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disturbance	2,009	24	117	—	116	1	1,868	1,683	23	—	162
Drunkenness	1,397	1	35	—	34	1	1,361	1,278	1	—	82
AGAINST LOCAL LAWS											
(a) *Traffic*											
Dangerous, inconsiderate and negligent driving	716	16	101	2	99	—	599	393	82	—	124
Driving under the influence of liquor	29	1	3	1	2	—	25	24	1	—	—
Exceeding speed	1,481	4	755	1	753	1	722	653	—	—	69
Bicycle contraventions	5,973	48	872	4	868	—	5,053	4,682	20	—	351
Contraventions by pedestrians	129	—	12	—	12	—	117	106	3	—	8
Using unlicensed motor vehicle	190	4	87	11	76	—	99	87	—	—	12
Other traffic offences	16,690	242	4,553	94	4,459	—	11,895	10,601	80	—	1,214
(b) *Distillery Laws*											
Illicit distillation of colonial spirit	4	—	1	—	1	—	3	1	—	—	2
Illicit removal or possession of colonial spirits wash or country liquor	16	1	2	—	2	—	13	8	—	—	5
Other offences against distillery laws	348	28	104	3	101	—	216	171	5	—	40
(c) *Licence Laws*											
Offences against Licence Laws	763	11	272	5	267	—	480	429	5	—	46
(d) *Other*											
Offences against Weights and Measures	192	1	49	3	46	—	142	126	—	—	16
Illegal Slaughtering	11	—	—	—	—	—	11	6	1	—	4
Smuggling	7	—	—	—	—	—	7	7	—	—	—

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TABLE I—*continued*

Offences	*Total reported during 1954*	*Pending Investigation at 31.12.54*	*Not taken to Court*				*Taken to Court*				
			Total	*Civil; no case in law or found false*	*Evidence insufficient, trivial or undetected*	*Accused dead or insane*	*Total*	*Convicted*	*Dismissed*	*Nolle prosequi*	*Awaiting trial at 31.12.54*
(d) *Other—continued*											
Offences against dangerous drugs ...	76	8	12	6	6	—	56	45	3	—	8
Offences against Firearms Ordinance ...	67	1	19	—	19	—	47	47	—	—	—
Offences against election laws	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swearing false affidavit	31	11	8	4	2	2	12	7	2	—	3
Offences against Food and Defence Regulations	57	4	23	9	14	—	30	18	6	—	6
Offences regarding Shop Hours Ordinance	1,000	21	123	—	123	—	856	778	10	—	68
Gambling and public lotteries	121	2	7	1	6	—	112	103	—	—	9
Breach of H.C. Regulations	63	—	6	2	4	—	57	52	1	—	4
Offences under Harbour Regulations ...	17	—	2	—	2	—	15	11	1	—	3
Other offences	10,022	283	7,175	164	7,010	1	2,564	2,124	117	—	323
TOTAL ...	57,973	1,710	26,010	1,545	24,450	15	30,253	26,299	659	—	3,295

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TABLE II

Persons dealt with by the Courts, (including the Court of Assizes) in 1954

Offences	Total arrested or summoned to Court	Acquitted	Nolle prosequi	Awaiting trial at 31.12.54	Convicted										
					Total	Death		Imprisonment			Whipping	Fine			First offenders' act or warning
						M	F	M	F	J		M	F	J	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)		(7)			(8)	(9)			(10)
Against Lawful Authority															
Against public order	1,150	48	1	68	1,033	—	—	210	—	1	—	768	43	1	10
Perjury	12	1	—	2	9	—	—	7	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Escape and rescue	24	1	—	—	23	—	—	18	—	—	—	2	—	—	3
Against Public Morality															
Rape and indecent assault	63	11	2	3	47	—	—	24	—	2	—	17	—	—	4
Unnatural offences	23	4	—	3	16	—	—	6	—	—	—	10	—	—	—
Other	173	38	6	3	126	—	—	9	1	3	—	109	2	—	2
Against the Person															
Murder and Manslaughter	8	2	—	1	5	1*	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Attempted murder and suicide ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Grievous harm, wounding etc. ...	2,741	179	19	280	2,263	—	—	144	1	—	—	1,893	89	105	31
Assaults	287	36	2	36	213	—	—	22	—	—	—	183	4	2	2
Other	871	151	13	92	615	—	—	34	—	—	—	518	37	9	17

M = Male adults ; F = Female adults ; J = Juveniles.

*Commuted to 15 years Penal Servitude.

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TABLE II—*continued*

Offences	*Total arrested or summoned to Court*	*Acquitted*	*Nolle prosequi*	*Awaiting trial at 31.12.54*	*Convicted*										
						Death		*Imprisonment*				*Fine*			
					Total	*M*	*F*	*M*	*F*	*J*	*Whipping*	*M*	*F*	*J*	*First offenders' act or warning*
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)		(7)			(8)	(9)			(10)
AGAINST PROPERTY															
Thefts and other stealing	995	85	6	67	837	—	—	331	12	29	—	143	148	5	169
Robbery and extortion	35	3	—	7	25	—	—	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Burglary, house breaking etc. ...	137	6	3	15	113	—	—	105	—	2	—	—	—	—	6
False pretences, cheating etc. ...	183	14	2	23	144	—	—	74	—	11	—	36	3	1	19
Receiving stolen property	68	5	1	9	53	—	—	44	—	1	—	3	—	—	5
Arson	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Praedial larceny	221	12	2	12	195	—	—	92	2	9	—	3	1	2	86
Other	664	60	6	38	560	—	—	18	1	—	—	453	60	10	18
AGAINST THE PENAL CODE															
Forgery and Coinage	43	—	3	8	32	—	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
Other	51	2	—	2	47	—	—	15	—	—	—	25	—	—	7
AGAINST LOCAL LAWS															
Against Traffic Ordinance	18,945	273	58	195	18,419	—	—	13	—	—	—	18,189	72	144	1
Against Township Ordinance ...	1,816	13	5	17	1,781	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,722	56	3	—
Against Liquor Ordinance ...	1,040	20	9	22	989	—	—	1	—	—	—	983	4	1	—
Gambling	300	1	—	3	296	—	—	—	—	—	—	296	—	—	—
Other	6,515	137	35	163	6,180	—	—	229	9	—	—	5,606	293	40	3
TOTALS ...	36,366	1,102	173	1,070	34,021	1	—	1,447	26	59	—	30,959	812	323	394

M = Male adults ; F = Female adults ; J = Juveniles.

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Prisons

Functions of the Prisons Department

The policy of the Prisons Department is to maintain in safe custody the offenders delivered to its care. Subject to this, every possible effort is made by education, training in crafts, the issue of books and periodicals, the showing of instructional films and the introduction of privileges for good behaviour to imbue the prisoners with a sense of dignity, of self respect and of duty towards the community and country such as will fit them to re-enter the outside world as useful citizens on completion of their term of sentence.

Penal Administration

There are three institutions in the colony dealing with persons received from courts:—

(a) Central Prison, Beau Bassin which has Women's Prison attached.

(b) The Borstal Institution, Grand River North West.

(c) The Industrial School, Beau Bassin.

(a) Beau Bassin Prison

Beau Bassin Prison consists of two three-storey blocks accommodating 760 prisoners in separate cells and a remand block having 6 large communal and 6 separate cells accommodating 50 prisoners. There are also workshops where the following trades are taught: blacksmithing, tinsmithing, carpentry (3 shops), tailoring, shoemaking, basketry, mat-making and book-binding. There is also a concrete block making industry and the erection of new buildings is carried out by prisoners. There are two hospital wards, together with stores and isolation wards.

The administrative headquarters of the service are situated in the Central Prison, from which all receptions and discharges of both male and female prisoners are carried out.

Within the men's prison at Beau Bassin there are now six yards laid out with flower beds and lawns where prisoners can associate for meals and leisure. Prisoners are segregated according to classification in the different yards:—

No. 1 Yard—Felon Recidivists.

No. 2 Yard—Misdemeanants (Recidivists).

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No. 3 Yard—Punishment Yard.

No. 4 Yard—Stars (First offenders, all ages).

No. 5—Yard—Young prisoners (17–23 years).

No. 6 Yard—Remand Yard. These classes are kept segregated as far as possible while at work. There is also a grade system in operation whereby a prisoner can by good behaviour pass successively from Probationary to 3rd, 2nd and 1st Grade, each grade having certain privileges, such as extra books, longer time in association and the playing of games.

Young prisoners now carry out recreational training under a trained instructor, morning and afternoon. There are also three voluntary recreational classes each evening. A qualified school teacher is attached to the Department and takes three voluntary educational classes in the new class room built by prison labour each evening after prison labour has ceased.

A cinema show is given inside the prison once a month, when films of topical and educational interest are shown. During week-ends (on Saturdays and Sundays) the football pitch outside the prison is used by prisoners. About 100 prisoners enjoy this privilege each week, not including those who go out as spectators. Prisoners now have their representative football team, who play against civilian teams on Wednesday evenings, when about 200 prisoners spectators are permitted to attend. Volley ball pitches and a basket ball pitch inside the prison walls are in use daily after labour.

The number of unofficial visitors has increased both in the Men's and Women's Prison and to date some notable successes have been achieved.

The women prisoners are housed in the Women's Prison which was opened on the 11th May, 1951. It has been built to adjoin the main prison, with a separate entrance. The grounds are attractively laid out with lawns, flowers and a vegetable plot. A large number of fruit trees and flowering shrubs has been planted. The inmates, who are few in number, are taught sewing, gardening and mat weaving, the latter by unofficial visitors.

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(b) The Borstal Institution, Grand River North West

The Borstal Institution is of minimum security and has accommodation for about 125 youths. It is run on similar lines to a Borstal in the United Kingdom.

The inmates are classified into the ordinary, probationary and special grades, there is also a penal grade for boys under punishment. Apart from classification, they are divided into three Houses: Red, Blue and White which compete to stimulate interest.

The lads receive daily instruction in the following trades: carpentry, tinsmithing, tailoring, cooking, boot and shoe making and gardening. A party of boys goes daily to the Forest Nursery for work and instruction. In addition they have physical training and educational classes under a qualified teacher.

Educational films are shown and explained to the lads twice monthly and outdoor games are organised each evening. Lads of the special and probationary grades swim at the seaside three times a week. Football matches are played against outside teams and an annual sports day has been instituted. The boys attended their second camp in October this year.

A Borstal Visiting Committee meets monthly and, among other things, decides on questions of release.

(c) The Barkly Industrial School, Beau Bassin

The School has accommodation for about 200 boys and is run on the same lines as an English Approved School.

Boys up to the age of 18 years are catered for. The senior boys are divided into houses: Red, White and Blue ; while the juniors (under 14) are in Yellow House, where they are separately accommodated and fed. A monthly " house " competition is run with points for conduct, cleanliness and upkeep of the house gardens.

All junior boys attend school daily for four hours under qualified teachers and receive primary school instruction up to the 6th standard. Senior boys who are illiterate attend school three evenings a week.

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All boys do daily physical training under a qualified instructor and in addition take part in organised games. Films of educational value are shown and commented on by the Visual Education Officer and lectures on forestry, citizenship, electricity and animal husbandry have been given by experts who have offered their services to help the boys. A party of 12 senior boys goes for work and instruction daily to the Agricultural Department gardens. Instruction in tinsmithing, brushmaking, shoemaking, carpentry, cooking and gardening is given to the boys in accordance with their aptitudes.

The School drum and fife band is popular and always appreciated. All boys have an opportunity of spending a fortnight under canvas at the sea-side.

Prison Discipline

During 1954, 935 reports were dealt with as follows: 18 by Prison Board and 917 by the Commissioner.

Remissions

All prisoners sentenced to imprisonment whether by one sentence or by consecutive sentences for a period of not less than 30 days are entitled to have one-third of their sentences remitted.

No payment is yet made for prison labour but an earnings scheme has now been approved by the Legislative Council.

Prison Statistics

Treatment of Offenders

Persons sentenced to	*Adults*		*Non Adults*		*Total*
	M.	*F.*	*M.*	*F.*	
Death	*1	—	—	—	1
Deprivation of liberty (imprisonment) with or without sanctions	712	20	142	13	887
Financial penalty	377	6	22	4	409
Corporal punishment with or without other sanctions	—	—	—	—	—
Borstal Institution	—	—	46	—	46
Industrial School	—	—	34	3	37
TOTAL	1,090	26	244	20	1,380

*Sentence commuted to penal servitude for 15 years.

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STATISTICS OF INSTITUTION

Type of Institution	Number	Total Daily average population				Daily average of				Debtors	Mental patients	Custodial	Others
		Adult		Non adult		Convicted persons		Persons on remand or detained					
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.				
Prisons	2,013	418·88	9·87	Not available for separate figures		385·61	9·30	33·13	·57	·14	Nil	134+ 3 women	*see under
Borstal Institution.	46	Nil	Nil	89·47	Nil	89·47	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	28	—
Industrial School...	110	Nil	Nil	136·90	Nil	134·10	2·21	2·80	·05	Nil	Nil	29	—

*4 Clerks, 1 Store-keeper, 5 teachers, 3 messengers, 1 Medical Officer (part-time).

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Chapter 10—Public Utilities and Public Works

Electricity

A Central Electricity Board was constituted by Ordinance No 79 of 1951 which came into force in December, 1952. The control and development of electricity supplies generally in the Colony is now vested in the Board which in addition has been entrusted with the following functions and duties:—

(a) to prepare and carry out development schemes with the general object of promoting, co-ordinating and improving the generation, transmission, distribution and sale of electricity for all purposes throughout the Colony ;

(b) to provide for new generating stations.

Electricity is provided by the Central Electricity Board and one privately owned undertaking, the General Electric Supply Company of Mauritius Limited. The Board completed the purchase of the Electric Generating Power Company (Mauritius) Limited early in the year.

The Board purchases from the General Electric Supply Company of Mauritius Limited a bulk supply of energy to supplement the output of its own power stations.

The main load is still provided by domestic consumers, but there seemed to be a marked tendency on the part of commercial and industrial consumers to use more electricity despite the restrictions still in force.

The installed capacity of the hydro-electric stations in kilowatts and their output of kilowatt-hour units for 1954 are as follows:—

		Units
(a) The General Electric Supply Co. Ltd. :—		
(i) Tamarin Power Station ...	8,000 kw	27,810,370
(ii) Réduit Power Station	600 kw	2,807,900
(b) Central Electricity Board :—		
Cascade Cécile Station	310 kw	1,500,000 (estimated)

The Board has also under construction a Diesel Generating Station at Plaine Lauzun which will eventually consist of four Diesel sets of a total installed capacity of 7,000 kw. One set of 1,500 kw capacity has already been installed and is likely to be commissioned at the beginning of 1955.

The Board is also investigating possible hydro-electric schemes in co-operation with the Public Works Department.

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THE BUILDING OF THE THERMAL POWER STATION AT PLAINE LAUZUN IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TEN YEAR PROGRAMME OF ELECTRICAL DEVELOPMENT

(ii) *Irrigation.*

Irrigation is carried out in Black River district from La Ferme Reservoir and in the northern districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart from La Nicolière Reservoir.

La Ferme Reservoir at an elevation of 450 feet above sea level has a capacity of 417 million cubic feet and water from it irrigates at present 2,500 acres. Additional supplies are derived from Mare-aux-Vacoas, Mare Longue and Tamarin Falls Reservoirs by means of the Magenta Canal, completed in 1954, which will bring another 1,500 acres under irrigation.

La Nicolière Reservoir at an elevation of 800 feet above sea level has a capacity of 200 million cubic feet and water from it irrigates at present 1,000 acres. The reservoir is linked to Midlands by the Midlands—La Nicolière Feeder Channel 17 miles long.

(iii) *Hydro-Electric Power.*

Water for hydro-electric power is derived from Mare-aux-Vacoas Reservoir, from Mare Longue Reservoir, which has a capacity of 220 million cubic feet and is situated at an elevation of 1,900 feet above sea level, and from Tamarin Falls Reservoir, which has a capacity of 72 million cubic feet and is situated at an elevation of 1,625 feet above sea level. All three reservoirs are situated in the catchment area of Tamarin River and supply water to the power station at the foot of the falls and 960 feet below Tamarin Falls Reservoir. The capacity of the Power Station is 8,000 kw.

Water supplied to the power station is afterwards passed into the Magenta Canal for irrigation in the Black River District.

A hydro-electric scheme at Eau Bleue has been approved and preliminary works will start in 1955. This scheme, which was recommended by Sir Bede Clifford in his book " The Irrigation and Hydro-Electric Resources of Mauritius " in 1940, provides for an earth dam of approximately 7½ million cubic feet to impound 220 million cubic feet of water. The reservoir is situated in the village of Eau Bleue in Midlands. A fall of 600 feet is available by cutting through a ridge separating the reservoir from Le Val where the power station will be situated.

The power station will be able to produce an average of 5 million K.W.H. units of electricity per annum by use of the flow of River Eau Bleue alone. By supplementing the flow of River Eau Bleue with that of other streams, the output of the power station can be increased to at least 8 million K.W.H. units per annum.

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(iv) *Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.*

The Plaines Wilhems Scheme is still under consideration.

PUBLIC WORKS

The responsibilities of the Public Works and Surveys' Department may be set out as follows:—

(a) maintenance and/or construction of (i) all Government works in connection with water supplies, roads, bridges, cemeteries, quays and machinery at the Harbour, (ii) Military Works on behalf of the Military Authorities and (iii) Government buildings costing not more than Rs 5,000 ;

(b) the management of all Crown lands and lands forming part of the *domaine public,* and the acquisition of land for public purposes ;

(c) the leasing of sand quarries ;

(d) the valuation, and the inspection of all lands pledged to Government, the assessment of damage caused by fire to canefields or other properties and the assessment of compensation for property acquired ;

(e) advice to Government on public works and all questions relating to the other functions of the Department.

The Department carried out its usual routine work as in previous years. No building work of major importance was undertaken during the year, but a new crane to replace the small and obsolete Harbour crane was erected, tested and put into operation at a cost of Rs 499,600 against an estimated expenditure of Rs 669,000.

Expenditure on the maintenance of buildings in the financial year 1953–54 declined to Rs 1,375,326 as compared with Rs 1,430,422 in the year 1952–53 as a result of work done in the past and a small reduction in the maintenance personnel.

There was no difficulty in obtaining skilled and unskilled labour and deliveries of materials from overseas improved.

Surveys.

Survey work in connection with the lease of Crown Lands and acquisition of private properties for implementation of various Government schemes continued as in previous years.

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Observatory

The Observatory Department maintains a meteorological and magnetic station at the Royal Alfred Observatory, Pamplemousses, an administrative and forecasting headquarters at Vacoas and a meteorological observing station at Plaisance Airfield. Meteorological observing stations are also maintained in the Dependencies at Agaléga, Diégo Garcia, Rodrigues and St. Brandon.

Complete rainfall records were collected from about 150 gauges distributed over the Colony. About 400 meteorological observations were collected each month from ships at sea. The daily weather maps covered, as far as possible, the whole of the Indian Ocean and surrounding continents between 15°N and 50°S. Meteorological observations and forecasts were prepared and transmitted daily for the use of meteorological services of other countries, shipping, aviation, Government departments and the public. Special warnings of tropical cyclones were provided and numerous general enquiries from authorities overseas and in the Colony were answered.

The reorganisation and extension of the Department continued steadily during the year, nearly all staff vacancies having been filled. In particular a permanent meteorological station with wireless communication to Mauritius was set up in Rodrigues and the modernising of methods in the magnetic section was undertaken by an officer who had been trained for the work in the United Kingdom.

Government Fire Services

The Fire Services Ordinance (No 56 of 1953) came into force on the 29th May, 1954. The Fire Services Regulations (G.N. No 71 of 1954) were approved by the Governor in Council on the 21st May, 1954.

The functions of the Fire Services as prescribed in section 4 of the Fire Services Ordinance, consist in taking all available measures with a view to extinguishing fires and to protecting life and property in case of fire in all areas outside the Municipality of Port Louis.

This Department comprises an Administrative Office in Port Louis and six Fire Stations at Curepipe, Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes, Rivière des Anguilles, Mahebourg and Piton. Its strength at the 31st December, 1954, included the Controller, the Chief Officer, two Station Officers, 11 Sub-Officers and 111 firemen.

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The Mobile Appliances distributed to the various stations included seven Fire Engines, eight large and nine small trailer pumps, three water lorries, one water trailer, one towing unit, one foam van, and one hose-carrier.

The Service responded to 299 fire-calls, compared with 200 in the previous year. The loss caused by fire, excluding loss in Port Louis Municipal area, was estimated at Rs 459,348, compared with Rs 296,900 in 1953. Appliances on fire calls covered 5,911 vehicle miles.

Within the area covered by the Service, there were 634 fire hydrants at the 31st December, 1954, including 22 new hydrants installed during the year. The Service works in close co-operation with the Public Works Department for the installation of hydrants as new pipes are laid in connection with the development of water supplies.

A new Fire Station was opened at Piton on the 24th April, 1954. The first fire alarm was received on the 27th April and 65 calls had been received by the end of the year.

A house allowance is paid to members of the service if they reside in the immediate vicinity of their station.

Four members of the Fire Services were awarded the Colonial Police and Fire Brigades Long Service Medal. Four members were successful in obtaining the First Aid Certificate of the St John Ambulance Association this year.

Requests for the attendance of firemen during presentations of stage plays totalled 139 and the attendance fees amounted to Rs 3,037. 127 storage places of petrol, intended to be used for retail sales, were inspected before the issue of licences by the Police. Fire appliances in 36 Government buildings and in 34 premises licensed for public entertainment were tested. Thirteen requests for pumping on sugar estates and private premises were attended to and fees for these attendances amounted to Rs 2,653.40.

Rules governing a Recreation and Barracks Fund in the Department (G.N. No 108 of 1954) to provide sports and indoor recreation equipment in Fire Stations and Barracks were approved in September.

The average cost per man in the Service during the year was Rs 3,754.45 while the cost of the Service per head of population (excluding the inhabitants of Port Louis) was Rs 1.11. The total revenue collected in 1953-54 was Rs 44,385.

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The Granary

The Granary, which was completed in 1933, is a two storeyed building of ferro-concrete and brick and covers an area of 1½ acres. It adjoins a Lighter Quay 389 feet long served by six electrically-operated hoists which lift bagged grain from lighters at the Quay to the top floor of the building which is operated as a Customs transit shed. From the top floor grain is delivered by gravity chutes to the first and ground floors which are divided into twelve and six separate stores. Other gravity chutes connect the first floor with the delivery yard at the rear of the building.

The Granary Ordinance prescribes that all grain (which includes rice, dholl, lentils, gram, peas and any other cereal which may be declared grain for that purpose by Proclamation), shall be discharged from ships to lighters and conveyed to the Granary for storage. The Ordinance limits the amount of grain which may be stored elsewhere than at the Granary.

The building was designed and erected with the object of protecting grain against contamination and destruction by pests, particularly rodents, and all entrances, exits and personal lifts are operated with this in view.

After allowing for passageways, separation of cargoes, etc. storage capacity is sufficient for approximately 500,000 bags of grain (about 34,500 tons).

As originally planned the various stores on the first and ground floors were to be allocated to importers who would be responsible for their stocks delivered from the top floor. Such allocation however has not been possible for a considerable time because of bulk-buying, particularly of rice, by Government and the consequent occupation of the greater part of the store for the storage of Government supplies.

All grain is stored in the Granary in bags: there is no bulk storage. Pest infestation is prevented as far as possible by spraying insecticide. Measures against white ants and termites are carried out by a local firm under contract and stores are fumigated as frequently as traffic permits.

The Granary Department which is responsible for the administration and maintenance of the building is under the control of the Granary Superintendent who is also Comptroller of Customs. Handling and stacking of grain is carried out by contract labour. During the year 1953–54, 36,584 tons of rice and 4,281 tons of other grain were handled.

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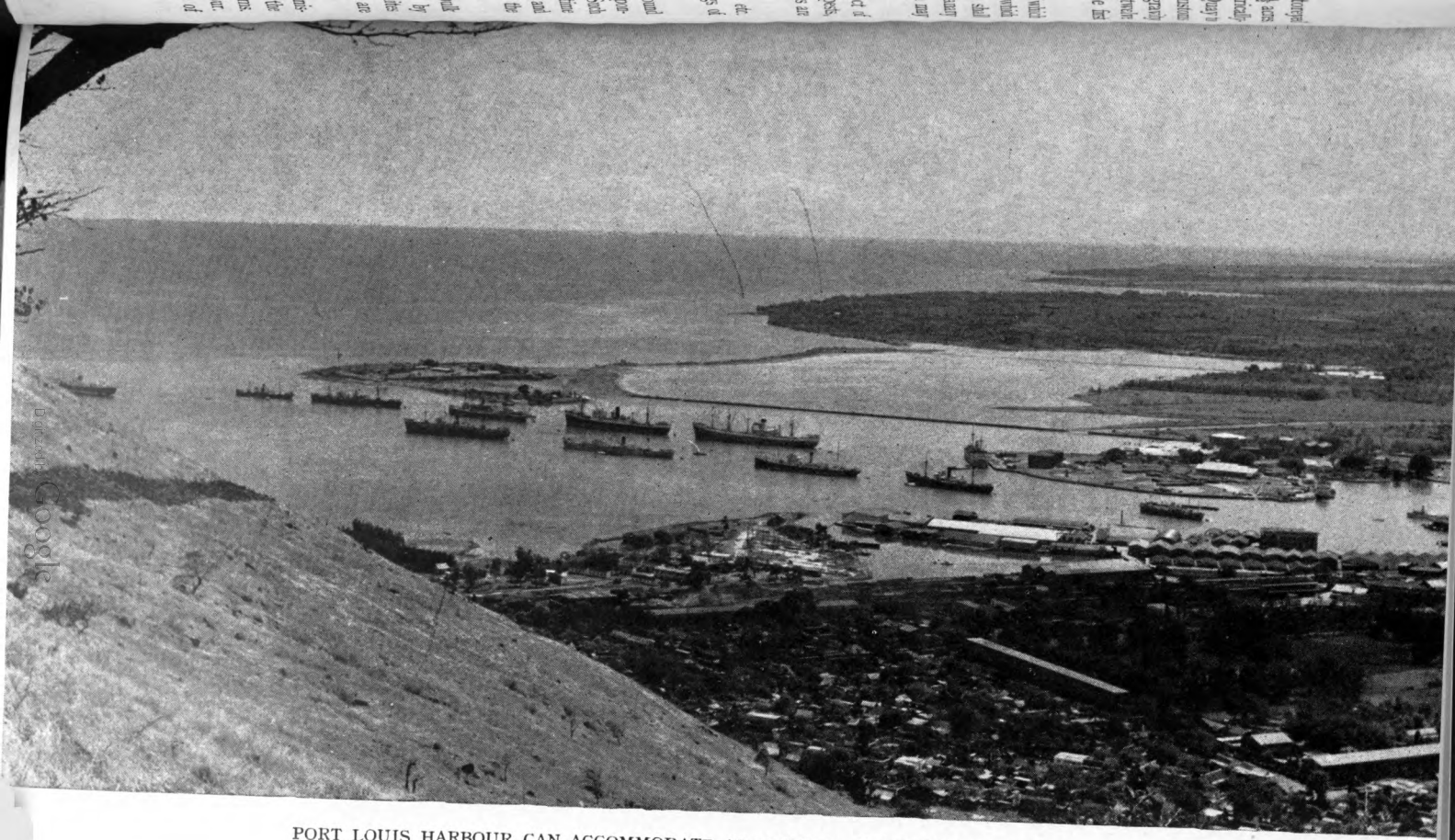

PORT LOUIS HARBOUR CAN ACCOMMODATE AS MANY AS FOURTEEN VESSELS AT ANY TIME

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Chapter 11—Communications

Shipping

Port Louis, the Capital of the Island, is also the only port : ten ocean-going and four small vessels can be accommodated at any one time.

Vessels are normally moored at buoys in the harbour, though two quays are available, one of 492 ft. and able to take a vessel of 29 ft. draft, and one of 390 ft. for vessels of drafts up to 17 ft. Both coal and oil bunkers are available in limited quantities and there is a good supply of fresh water.

Regular cargo services are provided from the United Kingdom by the Clan Line of Steamers, the Union Castle Line, Bullard King Ltd and the Ellerman Lines, and from Continental and French Mediterranean ports by the French Companies, *Messageries Maritimes* and *Nouvelle Compagnie Havraise Péninsulaire,* and by the *Svedel* Line (a combined French and Swedish firm).

Passenger services direct from the United Kingdom to Mauritius are infrequent, and the French vessels direct from Marseilles to Mauritius provide the better service.

Vessels of the Dutch " Royal Interocean Line " call at Port Louis regularly on the Far East, South Africa and South America services, thereby providing a regular passenger and cargo service to and from the Far East and South Africa. Passengers wishing to travel to the United Kingdom usually transship from the Dutch vessels to the Union Castle Line at Durban.

A total of 346 vessels entered Port Louis harbour during the year, with a total net registered tonnage of 1,281,102 tons. Of these, 183 vessels were of British Registry, 56 French, 49 Dutch, 14 Norwegian, 9 Swedish, 3 United States, 5 South African, 3 Italian, 5 Danish, 4 Japanese, 6 Panama, 1 Finnish, 2 Greek, 1 Indian, 1 Honduras, 3 Liberian and 1 Australian.

Among the vessels to enter during the year were 5 British Warships, 3 Yachts and 1 Cableship.

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There are five small vessels on the local register. Four of them are employed on services to the dependencies of Mauritius, Madagascar and East Africa, and one, previously employed in fishing, has now been converted into a cargo ship. These vessels have a combined tonnage of 2,213 net registered tons.

The number of passengers to enter and leave the island by sea during the year was 5,232 and 5,144 respectively.

Public Transport

Railways

The public railway system of Mauritius (4 ft—8½" gauge) is operated by Government. The railway network has 82 miles of line, varying between sea-level and an altitude of 1,800 feet. Both passenger and goods services are maintained but the latter provide the bulk of the revenue. By law heavy goods (manufactured sugar, fertilizers, coal and gunny bags) must be transported by rail.

The deficit on the working of the railways, which amounted to Rs 2,222,345 in the financial year 1953–54, is still a cause of concern. In order to effect economies passenger services have been suppressed on the Moka and Savanne lines and 10 miles of the former line have been sold for removal.

A fact-finding Committee set up by the Chamber of Agriculture to examine transport problems has completed its work and Government is examining its recommendations.

Two diesel-hydraulic locomotives ordered from the United Kingdom arrived in time for use in moving the sugar crop.

Statistics for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1954, are as follows: —

Length of line open to traffic ...	Miles	82
Passengers carried	Number	1,809,864
Passenger receipts	Rs	234,508
Parcels carried...	Number	102,343
Parcels receipts	Rs	66,516
Goods Traffic :—		
Sugar	Tons	431,427
Sugar Canes	Tons	3,432
General Merchandise	Tons	55,806
Goods Traffic Receipts :—		
Sugar	Rs	3,324,651
Sugar Cane	Rs	8,483
General Merchandise	Rs	279,119

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Train mileage	Train Miles	226,217
Receipts per train mile	Rs	18.64
Expenditure per train mile	Rs	29.61
Road Motor Service :—		
Total passenger vehicle miles ...	Vehicle Miles	124,834
Passengers carried	Number	392,437
Passenger receipts	Rs	83,393
Parcels carried	Number	1,921
Parcels receipts	Rs	551
Goods Traffic by Road :—		
Sugar	Tons	71,524
General Merchandise	Tons	11,074
Goods Receipts (Road) :—		
Sugar	Rs	379,189
General Merchandise	Rs	47,768

Number of vehicles in service :—

10 lorries and 7 trailers
1 dual purpose vehicle
2 buses.

Bus Transport

During the year 1954 the work of converting the bus industry from ownership by 165 individual owners of about 200 buses into fifteen regional companies was completed by the Transport Adviser who had been seconded from the British Transport Commission.

By the end of the year the companies were running efficient services under approved time tables, and improved standards of maintenance and design of the vehicles had been introduced. The number of buses was increased to 270 to meet the requirements of spare buses for maintenance and the general increase in bus travel. An average of 80,000 passengers travelled by bus daily.

Bus services replaced the railway passenger services on the Moka and Savanne Branches.

Road Haulage

There were 1,860 lorries in use in 1954—an increase of 300 over the preceding year. The majority are used in connection with the sugar industry, conveying cane to the factories and other materials to sugar estates. The trend towards replacing tramway haulage in the cane fields by motor vehicles and the extended acreage under cultivation have no doubt contributed substantially to the increase in the number of vehicles licensed.

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Roads and Vehicles

Mauritius is provided with an extensive road system, consisting of some 716 miles of public main and branch roads, most of which are suitable for motor traffic. All the roads are metalled and about 338 miles are bitumen coated. Practically all the main roads are open to heavy motor vehicles, but owing to rapid development in road traffic during the past twenty years many of the roads are too narrow for moderately fast transport to operate in safety. There are also numerous blind corners, very populous villages to travel through, while the roads are further congested by the slow moving goods transport and the large public transport vehicles.

The maintenance of proclaimed main and branch roads continued in the normal manner and improvements were carried out to some of the existing tarred surfaces. An additional 9 miles of road was asphalted.

The road from Chamarel to Choisy as a link between the districts of Black River and Savanne was opened to traffic.

There were 9,209 motor vehicles in use in the Island in 1954, as compared to 8,090 in 1953, classified as:—

Private cars	5,173
Lorries	1,864
Taxis	916
Buses	270
Motor Cycles	538
Tractors	97
Government Vehicles	351

The annual licence duties payable in respect of motor vehicles are as follows:—

	Rs
(*a*) Motor cycles, per H.P.	6
(*b*) Private cars, per H.P.	8
(*c*)—(i) Taxis not exceeding 10 H.P.	108
(ii) For every additional H.P.	8
(*d*)—(i) Motor buses not more that 10 H.P. and having a seating capacity for not more than 20 passengers	512
(ii) for every additional H.P.	8
(*e*)—(i) Motor lorries not exceeding 10 H.P. ...	200
(ii) for every additional H.P.	8
(iii) per metric ton of maximum gross weight or fraction thereof	40

Public service and goods vehicles are licensed quarterly at proportional rates. Licence duty in respect of motor cycles and private cars may be effected quarterly or half yearly at the owner's option.

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Visitors' licences, at the following rates, are payable in respect of privately owned motor cars and motor cycles belonging to persons on temporary visits to the Colony not exceeding 3 months:

Private cars	... ...	Rs 10 per month irrespective of H.P.
Motor cycles	... ...	Rs 2 per month irrespective of H.P.

No licence fee is charged on a privately owned car or motor cycle in the Colony for a short stay not exceeding one week.

River and Lake Transport

The rivers of the island are not navigable except at a short distance from the sea. There is no navigable lake.

Air

There is only one airport in Mauritius. It is situated at Plaisance, in the south-east of the island about three miles from the coast, and is run by the Civil Aviation Department of the Mauritius Government. Air France have a scheduled " Constellation " service twice weekly between Paris and Mauritius via Cairo, Nairobi, Madagascar and Réunion: the return flight Mauritius—Paris is along the same route. Qantas Empire Airways provide a scheduled " Constellation " service between Sydney and Johannesburg via Melbourne, Perth, Cocos Islands and Mauritius and from South Africa to Australia via the same route. The Qantas Empire Airways service is at present once fortnightly in each direction.

No aircraft is based in Mauritius and no internal services exist.

During the course of the year new Wireless Telegraphy and Radio Telephony equipment and landing aids were received and installed at the Airport by the staff of the Aeradio Division of the Civil Aviation Department.

The meteorological services at the Airport are under the control of the Director of Observatory, who is responsible for providing forecasts and all other meteorological information required and meteorological observers are stationed at the Airport.

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Apart from normal air-ground telecommunication services daily point to point schedules were maintained throughout 1954 with East Africa (Nairobi), Madagascar, South Africa, Réunion and Cocos Islands. Daily point to point services for meteorological purposes are also maintained with St. Brandon, Agaléga and Diégo Garcia.

The total number of landings and take offs at Plaisance Airport during the year amounted to 414. The number of incoming and outgoing passengers was 7,474, including 1,297 passengers in transit, as compared with 5,882 during 1953. Incoming and outgoing freight amounted to 143,387.729 kilos and mails carried to 29,772.326 kilos.

All aircraft calling at Plaisance were refuelled by the Refuelling Division at the Airport. The total amount of aviation spirit and oil used for refuelling aircraft amounted to 366.020 gallons and 1,526 gallons respectively.

Posts and Telecommunications

The Posts and Telegraphs Department is responsible for the postal and telegraph services and operates the Post Office Savings Bank. It also acts as Agent for a number of other departments in collecting revenue and making payments. The Money Order service is available to all parts of the world, and the British Postal Order service to most Commonwealth territories.

The main Post Office is at Port Louis and there are 34 other Post Offices and 41 Postal Agencies throughout Mauritius. There is also a Post Office in the Island of Rodrigues. All classes of postal and telegraph business are transacted.

Air mail connection with all parts of the world is maintained by Air France service with normally two flights weekly between Mauritius and Europe *via* Nairobi and Cairo, and one flight fortnightly *via* Livingstone and West Africa. A direct air mail link with Australia and South Africa is provided by Qantas Empire Airways which operate a fortnightly service between Australia and South Africa with a call at Mauritius in each direction. Air mail postage rates are charged on weight units of 5 grammes. The air mail postage rate to Europe and to India and Pakistan, the principal destinations of the Colony's outward air mail correspondence, is 60 cents for 5 grammes.

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The number of postal items handled during 1954 was as follows:—

Air Mail	3,132,949
Overseas surface mail	1,113,744
Inland mail	3,631,658

The Government operates a ship to shore radio station which communicates with ships within a radius varying between 600 and 1,200 miles of Mauritius according to atmospheric conditions. The station handled 14,663 radiotelegrams during 1954 as compared with 14,562 during 1953. About 90 per cent of the traffic is inward, and meteorological radiotelegrams constitute about 43 per cent of the total.

Mauritius is linked to the rest of the world by cables and by radio installations which are operated and maintained by Cable and Wireless Limited. The Company has an office, a cable station and a radio station at Port Louis, and a cable station and an emergency radio installation on the Island of Rodrigues. The greater part of the foreign telegraph traffic of the Colony concerns Port Louis and such telegrams are accepted and delivered by Cable and Wireless Ltd. Foreign telegrams for or from other parts of the Island are transmitted over land lines operated by the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

There are 210 miles of inland telegraph lines and the number of inland telegrams handled during 1954 was 16,071 as compared with 18,027 during 1953.

The telephone system of Mauritius is operated and maintained by the Electricity and Telephones Department.

At the close of the year there were 4,795 exchange lines in service. In order to meet demands for new services, extension equipment is being installed at three of the main telephone exchanges and additional underground cables for subscribers' services are being laid in the various exchange areas. At the 31st December, 1954, there were 10,620 miles of telephone wires and 6,497 telephone stations, an increase of 616 stations as compared with the figure at the 31st December, 1953. There are 12 Exchanges throughout the Island, and the number of effective telephone calls originated during 1954 was 5,953,271 as compared with 5,604,461 for 1953.

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Chapter 12—Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Services

Newspapers and Periodicals

The following newspapers and periodicals were published in the Colony in 1954 :—

Name	*Proprietors or Publishers*	*Editor*	*Language*	*Remarks*
Daily :—				
Advance	The Mauritius Free Press Service Company Ltd.	The Hon. Aunauth Beejadhur	French and English	Political, literary and commercial
L'Après-Midi	Gaston Pierre	Gaston Pierre	French and English	do. do.
Le Cernéen...	La Presse Mauricienne Ltée	Hervé de Sornay	French and English	do. do.
China Times	Lew Nee Chow	Chang Kang Chiao ...	Chinese	do. do.
Chinese Commercial Paper	Yoo Foo	Tang Kwan Hoi	Chinese	do. do.
Chinese Daily News ...	Li-Pak-U	To Wai Man	Chinese	do. do.
Latest News	Ww. J. Hay	Ww. W. J. Hay	English	General information
Le Mauricien	Raoul Rivet, C.M.G., M.B.E., Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur, Officier d'Académie.	The Hon. Gabriel Martial, O.B.E.	French and English	Political, literary and commercial
The New Era	Ww. H. K. Naudeer ...	Ww. H. K. Naudeer ...	English	General information
Half-Weekly :—				
Janata	The Mauritius Free Press Service Cy. Ltd.	Pandit L. Badree	Hindi	Political.
Weekly :—				
Aryoday	Shradhanand Printing ... Establishment	Pandit Atmaram	English and Hindi	Political
Cette Semaine	Centre International de Documentation et d'Idées.	Marguerite Labat... ...	French	Literary and commercial

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L'Epée	Joseph Coralie	Joseph Coralie	French and English	Political
Mauritius Times	B. Ramlallah...	B. Ramlallah	French and English	Political and literary
Vartman	Jyoti Press	Pandit Ramsewak Teewary	Hindi	Religious and social
La Vie Catholique ...	L'Union Catholique... ...	Editorial Board presided over by Mr. Edwin de Robillard	French	Religious and social
Government Gazette of the Colony of Mauritius	Mauritius Government ...	The Colonial Secretary ...	English	Official.
FORTNIGHTLY :—				
J.O. et Tribune Ouvrière ...	Jeunesse Ouvrière Catholique	Max Appanah	French	Religious and social
Libca	La Librairie Catholique Cy. Ltd.	La Librairie Catholique Cy. Ltd.	French	Bibliographical
Le Progrès Islamique ...	Ayesha Nadia Sookia ...	Ayesha Nadia Sookia ...	French and English	Religious
La Voix de l'Islam ...	La Société Hizbullah ...	A. Azize Peeroo	French and English	Religious
Zamana	The Hon. S. Bissoondoyal	The Hon. S. Bissoondoyal	French, English, Hindi and Tamil	Political.
MONTHLY :—				
Bulletin du G. P. U. M. (*Groupement pour l'Unité Mauricienne*)	Groupement pour l'Unité Mauricienne	Groupement pour l'Unité Mauricienne	French	Political
Church Magazine	The Diocese of Mauritius ...	The Bishop of Mauritius...	English	Religious
Documentation politique et économique	Centre International de Documentation et d'Idées	Centre International de Documentation et d'Idées	French and English	Political and economical
Maurice Sports	Mauritius Sports Association	Roland Noel	English and French	Sports
Renouveau...	Jeunesse Indépendante Catholique Féminine	Chantal Rouillard... ...	French	Religious and educational
La Revue de Marie ...	Marie Péril	Marie Péril	French	Religious
Social Welfare Bulletin ...	Social Welfare Department	Social Welfare Commissioner	English	Official.

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Name	*Proprietors or Publishers*	*Editor*	*Language*	*Remarks*
BI-MONTHLY :—				
The Breeders' News ...	The Mauritius Breeders' Club	Hervé de Sornay	French and English	Farming
L'Essor	Le Cercle Littéraire de Port Louis	G. André Decotter ...	French	Literary
La Revue Agricole de l'Ile Maurice	La Société des Chimistes de l'Ile Maurice	Alfred North-Coombes ...	French and English	Sugar Industry and Agricultural Science
La Revue Rétrospective de l'Ile Maurice	Noel Régnard	Noel Régnard	French and English	Historical
Yangtse	The Chinese Friendly Association	The Chinese Friendly Association	French, English and Chinese	Literary.
QUARTERLY :—				
The Chinese Students' Association Magazine	The Chinese Students' Association	D. Ah Chuen	French and English	Literary
The Diocesan Quarterly Magazine	The Diocese of Mauritius ...	The Bishop of Mauritius...	English	Religious
Le Flambeau... ...	The Teachers' Training College	The Teachers' Training College	French and English	Literary
Légionnaires	La Légion de Marie... ...	Jacques Maujean	French	Religious.
HALF-YEARLY :—				
The Amarant	Almadinah Press	D. Conhyea and A. Hossenbux	English and French	Literary
The Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart Bulletin	The Civil Commissioner, North	K. J. W. Lane	English	Official
Spiritus	Saint Esprit College ...	Y. Lagesse...	French and English	Literary.

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YEARLY :—

Almanach Biblique ...	J. A. R. David	J. A. R. David	French	Religious
Annuaire Touristique et Commercial de l'Ile Maurice	Centre International de Documentations et d'Idées	Marguerite Labat... ...	French and English	Commercial and touristic
Calendrier du Diocèse de Port Louis	The Diocese of Port Louis...	The Bishop of Port Louis	French	Religious
La Chronique du Turf	Mauritius Turf Club and Mauritius Jockey Club	Gaetan Halbwachs ...	French	Horse racing
The Mauritius Police Magazine	Police Magazine Committee	C. F. Lever	French and English	Literary
Year-Book of Statistics ...	Central Statistical Office ...	Director of Statistics ...	English	Official.

IRREGULAR :—

Mauritius Bulletin ...	British Council, Mauritius	John Sutherland	French and English	Educational and cultural
The Mauritius Institute Bulletin	The Mauritius Institute ...	The Board of Directors of the Mauritius Institute	French and English	Scientific
Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute Bulletin	Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute	Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute	French	Agricultural
Nous	The Dodo Club	Robert d'Unienville ...	French	Social
La Revue Artistique ...	Joseph Ignace Tranquille ...	Joseph Ignace Tranquille	French and English	Literary.

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Broadcasting

Before the Second World War, broadcasting in Mauritius was operated by a private commercial concern. During the war there were three stations in the Island, all partially or wholly controlled by Government. In 1944 Government decided to assume sole responsibility for broadcasting in the Colony and set up its own organisation, "The Mauritius Broadcasting Service," which broadcasts material of a non-commercial nature.

On the 31st December, 1954, 3,012 more sets were registered than in 1953. In the last ten years since Government took over the complete control of broadcasting in the Colony, the number of radio licences has increased from 2,746 in 1944 to 6,948 in 1950 and to 18,849 in 1954.

As far as recurrent expenditure is concerned the service was practically self-supporting in 1954, as the revenue derived from wireless licences for the financial year ending on the 30th June, 1954, amounted to Rs 218,990 as compared to an expenditure of Rs 223,992 for the same period.

For its capital expenditure the M.B.S. relies mainly upon a sum of Rs 416,100 provided jointly out of local funds and out of Colonial Welfare and Development funds for the implementation of a scheme worked out in 1950 for the technical improvement of the M.B.S. By the end of the year, Rs 93,167 had been spent on a transmitter building and on the purchase of new equipment. A revised scheme of technical improvement prepared in 1953 by Mr W. A. Roberts, Colonial Office Adviser on Broadcasting, estimated to cost approximately Rs 1 million, was still under consideration at the end of the year.

The M.B.S. owns a 1½KW Shortwave transmitter and a 5KW Medium wave transmitter broadcasting on 19m88 and 220m respectively, both of which are located at Forest Side in the district of Plaines Wilhems in a building which also houses the studios, the news service organisation and the administrative section.

The M.B.S. goes over the air for an average of 57½ hours a week in four daily transmissions in the course of which English, French, Hindustani and two Chinese dialects are spoken. It also broadcasts token programmes in Tamil, Hindi, Urdu, Telegu and Swahili.

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Owing to the lack of local professional artists, the bulk of the programmes are made up of recorded music and of transcription programmes from the British Broadcasting Corporation and the Radiodiffusion and Télévision Française, but the evening transmissions include a fair proportion of " live " items. Five news bulletins—one in English, three in French and one in Hindustani—covering a total of one hour are broadcast daily.

The Education Department broadcasts 5 weekly programmes of 15 minutes duration each.

The Globe Reuter News Service is monitored by the M.B.S. which distributes daily 117 duplicated copies of world news to the local press, to Government Departments and to the Military Authorities.

Films

The main activity of the Visual Education Branch of the Education Department was the production of 16mm newsreels covering events of general interest.

These films were shown in schools by the Mobile Cinema Unit of the Education Department and in rural areas by the two Mobile Cinema Units of the Public Relations Office. The audience reached by the Mobile Cinema Unit at each show given in villages numbered between 500 and 1,000.

A 16mm. documentary colour film on the Mauritius dependencies was in the final stage of production and was expected to be ready for release early in 1955.

Towards the end of the year, the Public Relations Office film library comprised 503 titles. Of this number 378 were made available to various individuals and organisations on loan free of charge.

No films were produced on a commercial basis.

The four cinema companies control between them 37 cinema halls. There is an average of two cinemas in the main urban centres. A large number of villages are now provided with cinemas.

With the exception of the 35 mm. versions of British News which are issued on hire by the Public Relations Office, the cinema companies themselves effect the distribution of the films they receive through their agents overseas. The films are almost exclusively French (or French-speaking) and Indian.

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Information Services

The Public Relations Office keeps the public informed of Government activities through the Press, the Broadcasting Service, the Mobile Cinema Units and by personal interview. As in preceding years close co-operation was maintained with the main newspapers. Information was conveyed to the Press in the form of communiqués, press releases and articles. The Press reciprocated by its readiness to publish articles and reports covering events and official functions of island-wide interest. A total of 892 notices and press releases were issued to the Press which claimed payment for less than two-thirds. Publicity was arranged for the immunization campaign against whooping cough, launched by the Government Medical Services. The Public Relations Office made full use of the Civil Commissioners' offices for reaching the people in the rural districts.

An important occasion for journalists was the Press Conference which the Earl of Munster, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, gave at the Governor's residence on the eve of his departure.

Representatives of the Press were given the opportunity to meet visitors of note including Sir Geoffrey Clay, K.C.M.G., O.B.E., M.C., Agricultural Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies ; Professor Thornton-White, Town Planning Consultant to the Government of Mauritius and Mr. D. Maitland, Manager of Qantas Empire Airways in South Africa. At Press Conferences Heads of Departments and Government officials dealt with aspects of domestic policy.

During the year numerous visitors called at the Office and were given facilities for obtaining information and for meeting officials.

The distribution of books, pamphlets, periodicals, photographs and publicity material to public libraries, schools and village councils is one of the chief routine activities of the Office. Another important feature is the preparation of a daily report and of weekly summaries of leading articles and of important items in the local press.

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It is the responsibility of the Public Relations Office to disseminate information about Mauritius in the United Kingdom and other countries. For the first time, space was devoted in " The Sphere " to the publication of photographic material produced by the Office. Several illustrated articles and photographs featuring economic development were accepted for publication in the United Kingdom Press.

The Public Relations Office participated in the Hall of Harbours Exhibition held in Durban on the occasion of the Durban Centenary Celebrations. The exhibits consisted of a pictorial map of Mauritius, of mounted photographs and photocopies of old prints showing the harbour at different periods of its development. It was gratifying to hear that the display, small as it was, had aroused considerable interest.

The yearly revision of the sections devoted to Mauritius in Reference Books is the responsibility of the Public Relations Office. " The World of Learning " (a Europa publication) was added to the list of Year Books to which this Office contributes.

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Chapter 13—Local Forces

The Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force was created in 1949. Its strength on the 31st December, 1954, was 32 enrolled ratings and 8 probationary new entries. Though 21 new entries were accepted during the year, the total strength remained approximately the same as that of last year owing to the number of withdrawals and discharges from the Force.

Selection Boards are convened every three months, but the standard of education of many applicants is low, and the choice of candidate for voluntary service in the Force is very limited. Unless genuine interest in the purpose of the M.N.V.F. can be extended to cover a far wider field than is available at present, a high wastage of effort is inevitable.

Voluntary drills were held each Monday and Friday between 4.30 p.m. and 6 p.m. throughout the year, and average attendance improved slightly over that of former years. Practical sea training in the M.N.V.F. vessels *Sambur* and " MFV 189 " was carried out both during drill periods and, whenever possible, during the daytime, but a number of ratings could not take advantage of such training because of their civilian employment, and the general response has been disappointing.

All ratings have to undergo 14 days' continuous training each year and this training was held as usual at Cannonniers Point between the 17th and the 31st October. All ratings but one were present for the full period of training. Weather throughout was excellent and much practical experience, especially in the handling of *Sambur* and " MFV 189 ", was gained during the fortnight.

The Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, was unable to visit Mauritius owing to illness and the Commanding Officer of H.M.S. *Ceylon* carried out the annual inspection of the M.N.V.F. on the 4th June.

During the year the following warships visited Mauritius:—

Indian Navy Training Ship *Tir* (2nd—7th February).

H.M.S. *Ceylon* (1st—8th June), and

H.M.S. *Loch Alvie* & H.M.S./M *Tudor* (19th—23rd July).

On each occasion the Commanding Officers kindly placed facilities for instructional training at the disposal of the M.N.V.F., which was much appreciated.

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His Excellency the Governor carried out a farewell inspection of the Force at M.N.V.F. Headquarters on the 7th January, 1954. On his departure from the Colony on the 11th January, the M.N.V.F. provided a Guard of Honour at the jetty, and *Sambur* carried Sir Hilary and Lady Blood from the shore to their liner. On the 22nd March, *Sambur* was again used to bring ashore the new Governor and Lady Scott from their liner to the landing place where an M.N.V.F. Guard of Honour was paraded.

On the 10th June, the M.N.V.F. paraded a platoon of one officer and 24 ratings on the occasion of the parade at Line Barracks in celebration of the Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen.

Another event of interest took place on the 4th December, when *Sambur,* towing a lifeboat borrowed for the occasion, carried a scientific party on an expedition to Round Island off the north east coast. Leaving Port Louis at 5 a.m., the party landed safely at 8.15 a.m. under unusually calm conditions ; they re-embarked by 3.30 p.m. and returned to Port Louis at 6.30 p.m. During the period of annual training landings had already been made on Round Island and also on Serpent Island, the latter a rare event which provided good experience in the handling of boats on a rocky shore and in a high swell.

The Army

During the year 1,177 men enlisted into the Royal Pioneer Corps, of whom 597 were recruits and 580 re-enlistments. 1,243 men embarked for service overseas. In the same year 2,237 soldiers were discharged and 10 died overseas.

Guards of Honour, consisting of K.A.R. and R.P.C. personnel were provided for Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday parade in June and the Remembrance Day Parade in November.

The Commander-in-Chief East Africa, General Sir George Erskine, K.C.B., K.B.E., D.S.O., visited the island from the 20th to the 23rd May and was met on his arrival at the airport by a Guard of Honour provided by the R.P.C. personnel.

The Garrison had the pleasure of a visit of an Army Football Team from Kenya in October.

Colonel J. F. Wilkins, Royal Norfolk Regiment, left Mauritius in November on another appointment and was replaced, as Sub Area Commander, by Colonel A. G. de Carteret.

The 26th Battalion King's African Rifles left the Island on the 9th December and was replaced by a Company of the 6th Battalion K.A.R.

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Chapter 14—General

Cultural and Scientific Organisations

The Mauritius Institute

The Mauritius Institute traces its origins to the year 1880 when an Ordinance was passed " to establish and incorporate a Public Institute, to be called the Mauritius Institute, a Public Museum and a Public Library, for the purpose of promoting the general study and cultivation of the various Branches and Departments of Arts, Science, Literature and Philosophy and for the instruction and recreation of the people."

The foundation stone was laid by Sir George Bowen, then Governor, on the 23rd November, 1880, and in 1885 the Natural History collections, bequeathed to the Colony by Julien Desjardins, were transferred to the new building from the old Royal College. The public library was opened in 1903, following the munificent bequest of Sir Virgile Naz Library which forms the nucleus of the present collection. The Institute has expanded its activities over the years and to-day it comprises a Public Library, a Natural History Museum, a Maritime and Historical Museum, and a small Art Gallery. In addition a number of scientific and literary Societies are associated with the Institute.

The Institute is managed by a Board of Directors consisting of eight members appointed annually by the Governor and of such other persons as may be recommended by any literary and scientific society connected with the Institute. A Library Committee and a Museum Committee are set up each year to manage the affairs of the Library and the Museum respectively.

The Public Library

The Mauritius Institute Library is free to readers but a deposit of Rs 10 is required from borrowers. The stock of 41,000 volumes comprises about an equal number of French and English fiction and non-fiction books and a small proportion of Oriental books. More than seventy-five periodicals are received annually.

The Library has a valuable collection of Mauritiana and a reference section on the natural history of the Mascarene Islands and the neighbouring regions. There is also a scientific research

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and reference section, of which the library of the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius forms part. This section is indispensable for the study of the museum collections and it is intended to provide a working basis for the student or research worker in regional biology, geology and natural history.

The Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum is regional in character and every effort is made to assemble materials representative of the fauna, flora and geology of Mauritius and of the two other Mascarene Islands (Reunion and Rodrigues). The exhibits are being rearranged on an educational and ecological basis and a reserve collection for research workers is being gradually built up.

In the avian section there are three skeletons of the Dodo, one of the Solitaire from Rodrigues, and one of the flightless Red Hen *(Aphanapteryx)*, as well as a complete collection of the endemic birds of Mauritius, including the extinct Dutch Pigeon *(Alectroenas nitidissima)*.

There are now on view advanced collections of Crustacea, Echinodermata and Mollusca, both land and marine, and notably a collection of tropical fish, many painted in their natural colours.

The botanical section includes a herbarium of over 4,000 sheets of specimens from Mauritius, Rodrigues and some of the small Indian Ocean Islands. Specimens of native and exotic timber are displayed and a special section is devoted to plant diseases and pests.

Historical Museum

A subsidiary Museum devoted to local history has been opened in an old French house at Mahebourg where the two wounded commanders of the British and French Squadrons were received during the naval battle of Grand Port in August, 1810. The museum is visited by over 5,000 persons annually, including many visitors from overseas. Specially conducted tours for societies, schools and other interested bodies are arranged.

The building is a two-storied house, consisting of five large rooms in which the exhibits are displayed. In the two front rooms on the ground floor are found a number of objects recovered in 1934 from the wreck of one of the English frigates, the

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" Magicienne," which sank in the Bay of Mahébourg during the Grand Port battle. Among the objects are several 12-pounder guns, 24-pounder carronades, cannon balls, grapeshot, rudder braces in solid copper, copper coins, pieces of sailor's uniform and various smaller relics. Part of the hulk of the " Magicienne " showing the wooden structure, the copper sheeting and some of the draught plates in Roman figures is exhibited. The details of the construction of the frigate and of another English frigate also lost in the battle, the " Sirius," can be seen on plans supplied by the Admiralty. Reproductions of old prints and engravings show some phases of the engagement and the leading personalities connected with it. A noteworthy exhibit is a large relief map (9": 1 mile) of the bay of Grand Port with small model ships illustrating the battle.

The important activities of the French privateers, who used the Ile de France as a base at the beginning of the 19th Century, are illustrated by some exhibits from the East Indiaman " Kent " which was captured by Robert Surcouf, the " Roi des Corsaires " in the Bay of Bengal in October, 1800. A large portrait of Surcouf is hung nearby.

The capture of the island by the British at the beginning of December, 1810, is illustrated by a series of coloured prints by R. Temple. An oil painting of the last French Governor (General Decaen) and a large bowl which belonged to him are on view.

A recent odyssey which ended in Mauritius is commemorated by maps and objects from the British steamer " Trevessa " which foundered between Australia and Mauritius 1,610 miles away from the latter, in June, 1923. The crew of 44 abandoned the ship in two life-boats, one of which reached Rodrigues and the other Mauritius after 25 days, eight lives being lost during the voyage.

In the same section of the museum are exhibited two flags presented to Mauritius by the officers and ship's company of H.M.S. *Mauritius*. One is an Italian flag captured by the Green Howards at Melilli, Sicily, in July, 1943, when fire support was provided by *Mauritius* for the final assault on the stronghold ; the other is the battle ensign flown by the same cruiser during the Sicilian campaign.

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Another portion of the room is devoted to the history of transport in Mauritius, exemplified, for the time being, by two palanquins and a *chaise à porteurs*, which were in use before the era of roads and wheeled traffic.

The stairs leading to the first floor open into a long hall at the end of which have been grouped some pieces of furniture which belonged to the famous French Governor of the island, Mahé de Labourdonnais (1699–1753): a bed, an armchair and a glazed *armoire*. In this cupboard have been placed a drinking glass, which also belonged to Labourdonnais, and examples of "willow" patterned china imported into Mauritius by the French East India Company at the same period. The recess devoted to these exhibits is decorated with a reproduction of a seventeenth century Gobelins tapestry and a portrait of Labourdonnais. On the walls of this room are displayed a series of oil engravings depicting scenes from *Bernardin de Saint Pierre's* novel " Paul et Virginie," a legend of the time of Mahé de Labourdonnais.

Adjoining the Labourdonnais exhibits is a special room in which are displayed, in their proper sequence, a valuable collection of maps, charts, engravings and water-colours (many in original), which serve to introduce the visitor to the various periods of the history of Mauritius from its discovery to the present time. Worthy of special mention in this section are a portulan map published at Amsterdam in 1595, (probably the most accurate map of the region available at the time of the first Dutch visit to Mauritius in 1590), an English map of Mauritius by Mount and Page published in 1745 and derived from a Dutch source, Abbé de la Caille's map (1753) which is the first accurate map of the Island, Bellin's map of 1763, and two maps by the Creole hydrographer, Lislet Geoffroy, published by the English Admiralty in 1813 and 1814. Modern maps are also shown, including the fine one-inch map by Descubes (1880) which is of great practical interest as it indicates the site of over a thousand concessions.

Among the series of lithographs and water-colours recording the life, scenery and customs of different periods may be noted six water-colours by Kelsey (early 1840's), coloured prints by Thuillier, coloured lithographs by Bradshaw and Rider (1831–32), water-colours by Leroy (1860's), and a water-colour panoramic view of Mauritius, sketched from the Port Louis Harbour by Augustus Earle who was on board the " Beagle " when Charles Darwin visited Mauritius in 1836.

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A small exhibit is devoted to the history of the famous " Post Office " stamp of Mauritius (1847) and is illustrated by reprints of the stamp.

Art Gallery

An art gallery is attached to the Port Louis Museum, and contains a collection of original paintings including works by Ziem, Le Sidaner and Harpignies. A small section is devoted to the work of local artists.

Research

The richness and variety of marine life in the surrounding seas, together with the very interesting remnants of the indigenous land fauna and flora, present excellent opportunities for biological research. A scientific publication, " The Mauritius Institute Bulletin," devoted to the publication of original papers on the natural history of the region, is issued about once a year.

In recent years research work, in conjunction with institutions and workers overseas, has continued to develop, mainly on marine and land mollusca, crustaceans, insects and reptiles. Investigations on the systematics and ecology of the vegetation of Mauritius are in progress.

Learned Societies

The following scientific and literary societies are associated with the Mauritius Institute: —

(1) *The Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius* was founded in 1829 under the name of " Société d'Histoire Naturelle " and was honoured in 1847 by a permission of Queen Victoria to add the word " Royal " to its name. Its activities extend to most branches of natural history. Lectures on science and art are delivered by its members from time to time and also by visiting professors, artists and scientists. A catalogue of the library, which contains many rare and valuable books on natural history, was published in 1945. Proceedings of the Society, containing papers read before the Society, are published annually.

(2) *The Société Médicale de l'Ile Maurice* was founded in 1880 and includes among its members most of the medical practitioners of the Colony.

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(3) *The Société de Technologie Agricole et Sucrière de Maurice* is a technical body devoted to the study of questions relating to the cultivation of sugar cane and the manufacture of cane sugar. The papers and proceedings of the Society are published in the bi-monthly *Revue Agricole*.

(4) *The Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens* was founded in 1938 with object of encouraging the publication of literary works, of establishing contacts with literary institutions overseas, and of maintaining unity among Mauritian writers.

(5) *The Indian Cultural Association* was founded in 1936 with the object of promoting Indian culture in Mauritius and of fostering spiritual ties with India. It publishes a quarterly journal called " The Indian Cultural Review " and among its contributors are some of the foremost poets and writers of the island.

The Mauritius Archives

The Mauritius Archives Office is not only one of the oldest departments of the Colony, dating from the early years of the French settlement, but it is also one of the oldest archive centres of the Southern Hemisphere, ranking only after the Cape and Reunion repositories.

Under French rule the Office was a branch of the *Conseil Supérieur* and received special attention from the authorities. An early instance of the interest of the French Government in colonial archives is provided by the edict of 1770, which set up a central *Dépôt des Chartes des Colonies* at Versailles and enacted regulation for their better preservation. Another important measure was the establishment in Mauritius in 1808 of a *Dépôt des Cartes de la Marine* which, for a long time, supplied sailors and travellers in the South Indian Ocean with valuable information.

At the time of the land fighting which led to the surrender of the Island by the French, the local archives were removed from Port Louis to a safer place of custody in Plaines Wilhems and thus escaped damage. In 1815, after the final cession of Mauritius to Great Britain, they were handed over to the British Authorities in an almost complete state, as comparatively few of the records were retained by the French Government.

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Until 1949 the Archives were attached to the Registrar General's Department, and from January, 1950, to the Central Administration. By Ordinance No. 71 of 1952 they were transferred to an Archives Department which is now the central repository of all public archives.

The Archives Office is now divided into the following sections:—

(i) the Repository which comprises, *inter alia,* the records of the old French Administration (1721–1810), records of the British Administration (from 1810), notarial records, and private records.

(ii) the Library which, besides being the official registry of all publications issued in Mauritius, contains Mauritiana printed abroad, reference books on general history, colonial history and archivology with a section devoted to collections of stamps, seals, currency notes and other materials.

(iii) the Land Registry which comprises the records of the former Land Court, memoranda of surveys deposited by sworn land surveyors, with a section containing maps, charts and plans.

The Department is also equipped with a Photostat and a Duostat for the photo copying of records and the supply of copies to Government Departments and to the public.

The control and disposal of records is supervised by a Public Archives Records Destruction Committee consisting of the Chief Archivist, the Principal Auditor, the Director of Statistics and a Law Officer of the Crown. The Chief Archivist also inspects regularly archives in the custody of agencies other than the main repository.

Publications include the annual report, the quarterly *Memoranda* of books and periodicals issued in Mauritius and registered in the Archives, and the publications issued by the Archives Publication Fund Committee (established in 1951). In June, 1954; this Committee published a selection of documents relative to trade relations between Mauritius and the United States between 1786 and 1810 under the title "Early American Trade with Mauritius."

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The bibliographical survey of *Mauritiana* started in 1951 is now practically completed. The object of this survey is to trace and record materials relative to Mauritius arranged under the following groups:—

A. Early imprints and private publications, from 1768.
B. Periodicals, newspapers and serials, from 1773.
C. Government publications, from 1810.
D. Foreign publications, from 1601.
E. Manuscripts and archive records, from c. 1500.
F. Maps and charts, from c. 1500.

It was originally intended to publish the results of the survey in six instalments corresponding to each group, but it is now proposed to embody them in a single volume due to come out in 1955. The book will be entitled *Bibliography of Mauritius* and will have about 900 pages and over 8,000 entries. It will constitute the first comprehensive catalogue of all primary and secondary sources of Mauritian history.

The British Council

The promotion of cultural relations with other countries, says the British Council report for the year ended the 31st March, 1951, " is now recognised, throughout the World, as a normal function of the State, and the British Council is the contribution of the United Kingdom to a complex system of internatioanl relationships." The expression ' cultural relations ' is later defined in the same report as " literature and arts, pure and applied science, systems of Government and local administration, medicine and nursing, all the links between people and institutions which a common profession or occupation give, the study of languages and information on all those things that together make a national ' way of life '." In the Colonies the Council endeavours, in addition to the projection of the British way of life, to assist in social and cultural development and to promote understanding between people of different origins.

The activities of the British Council in Mauritius during 1954 were restricted by the absence for more than half the year of a Representative. Mr. J. Sutherland left in June and his successor, Mr. A. Morton, did not arrive until the end of December. The basic activities of the Council were, however, maintained in film shows, library services, the presentation of books and periodicals, the circulation of study boxes and the organisation of play-reading groups.

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During the earlier months of the year the Council contributed to a " Better Village Campaign " in the northern district by a series of talks illustrated by U.N.E.S.C.O. film strips.

Fifty-two students proceeding to higher studies in the United Kingdom and a number of officials granted study leave attended the Representative's introductory course in March. All of these were met on arrival in England and, where necessary, accommodation was arranged for them by the Council's Student Welfare Department. Several Mauritian visitors to the United Kingdom were looked after by the Council's Visitors Department and programmes of professional introductions were arranged. A six-month bursary was awarded to a Mauritian doctor for post-graduate medical studies.

In April a Shakespeare Week was organised, as in previous years, by a committee presided over by the Representative and consisting of members of the leading cultural groups in the Colony. The programme included films, lectures, exhibitions, broadcast and literary competitions.

Société de l'Histoire de l'Ile Maurice

This society was founded in 1938 to foster and encourage the study of the Colony's history by the collection of documents on local history, publication of historical works, and the organisation of historical exhibitions and lectures.

One of the principal activities of the Society has been the production of the Dictionary of Mauritian Biography, twenty-four parts of which have already appeared. These contain about one thousand biographies of persons connected with Mauritius by birth or residence.

The Society awards prizes to schoolchildren to encourage the study of Mauritian history. It keeps in touch and exchanges publications with oversea institutions of like interests on collects material from the Archives at the Cape, the Hague, Batavia, Paris, London and Lisbon.

In 1953 the Society had a monument erected in the gardens of the Curepipe Town Hall to commemorate the bicentenary of the voyage to Mauritius of Abbé de la Caille and his survey of the island.

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British Medical Association, Mauritius Branch

A branch of the British Medical Association was founded in 1939. Membership is granted to all medical practitioners who have qualified for registration in Mauritius, including those holding French qualifications. The Branch represents the majority of the doctors in the Island and close collaboration is maintained between Government and the profession. The advice of the Branch has frequently been sought by Government on Development and Welfare questions and health and other needs of the community.

Le Cercle Littéraire de Port Louis

The principal object of this Society is to seek to bring together all those interested in French culture and ideals. Its aims are to encourage among the Mauritian people the study of the French language and literature and to promote their diffusion by means of annual competitions and public lectures. A review, *L'Essor*, is published by this Society.

Alliance Française

The Mauritius Branch of the Alliance Française was founded in 1884 with the object of encouraging the study of the French language by means of French courses in schools and annual examinations as well as meetings and conferences on French literature and art.

Mauritius Dramatic Club

The first record of an organised amateur theatrical production in Mauritius goes back as far as the 25th April, 1848, when officers of the 5th Battalion, the Northumberland Fusiliers, staged three one-act plays at the Port Louis Theatre.

A Mauritius Amateur Dramatic Club was formed in 1898 and stage productions and play readings were regularly featured until the 1914–1918 War.

The present Mauritius Dramatic Club owes its origin to a revival in theatrical activity which began in early 1920 and which ultimately led to the formation of the Club in 1932. Since then stage plays, play readings and broadcasts have been frequently presented.

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The Vacoas House of Debaters

This association, founded in 1936, takes a special interest in general educational and cultural development.

Fortnightly meetings are held for debates and plays, and occasional radio programmes are presented on the Mauritius Broadcasting Service. Lectures by eminent outside personalities are delivered from time to time.

A Scholarship Fund, authorized by Government, provides for the educational needs of pupil-members taking a secondary course of studies. A Girls' section was started in January 1952 for the welfare of girls of 12 and upwards.

Volley ball, table-tennis, outings, open air camping are some of the recreational activities.

The Mental and Physical Culture Association

The principal aims of this Association are to encourage the study of the English language and literature and to assist its members to obtain facilities for enjoying sports such as tennis and football.

The Hindi Pracharini Sabha and the Mauritius Hindi Parishad

These societies were established with the object of promoting and encouraging the study of Hindi in Mauritius. Efforts are being made by the managing committees to produce a uniform curriculum and to improve the standard of teaching. Collaboration with the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan of Allahabad, India, is maintained for the holding of examinations in higher Hindi in Mauritius.

The P.E.N. Club de l'Ocean Indien

The Mauritius section of the " Fédération Internationale des P.E.N. Clubs " was founded in Mauritius in 1951. It seeks to promote a spirit of understanding and friendship among the writers of all sections of the community and also among those of the neighbouring islands. A number of broadcasts and conferences were given under the auspices of the Club during the year.

The Young Men's Christian Association (Mauritius)

The Mauritius YMCA was founded in collaboration with the London Central YMCA and officially inaugurated in August, 1952, by a delegate of the World's Alliance of YMCAs.

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The Association has been given the status of a Voluntary Educational Centre for Mauritius by the United Nations.

Membership is open to all, irrespective of age, creed or community.

United Nations' Day observance was again sponsored by the Mauritius YMCA in collaboration with the Public Relations Office and the British Council.

By courtesy of the Town Council and the Allied Cinemas Co. Ltd. a United Nations documentary film show was given under the patronage of H.E. the Governor at the Plaza Theatre.

The Mauritius YMCA. has been invited to send delegates to the World YMCA centennial Conference to be held in Paris in August, 1955.

The English Association

Founded in 1946, the English Association is the outcome of a movement started by a group of English and Mauritian ladies and gentlemen with the prime object of helping Mauritian secondary school children who were learning English to a better knowledge of the tongue and to a fuller acquaintance with English literature and culture. These school children, usually weak in spoken English through lack of practice, were above all to be given opportunities of speaking English and of hearing it spoken by English people.

The Association, which has a membership of about 60 and works in close co-operation with the British Council, tries to achieve its aims by engaging in as many activities as possible likely to be of assistance to students of English language and literature. Film shows, dramatic performances, and broadcasts in English are arranged for school children and essay-writing competitions are run. Above all, annual competitions in elocution, acting and choral singing are held and the prize-winners take part in a public recital. The number of schools taking part in these competitions is steadily increasing.

The Association has since its foundation been honoured with the patronage of the Governors of the Colony, its first Patron having been Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, K.C.M.G.

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PART III

Chapter 1—Geography and Climate

GEOGRAPHY

Mauritius is a small island extending over an area of approximately 720 square miles, situated in the Indian Ocean, between 19° 58′ and 20° 32′ South Latitude, and the meridians of 57° 17′ and 57° 46′ East Longitude. It is almost surrounded by a fringing coral reef. The northern part of the island is a fairly flat plain which rises gently towards the central plateau. Elsewhere the coastal plain is narrow and the ascent to the central plateau abrupt. Bordering the central plateau there are three main mountain ranges with rocky peaks, the highest of which is 2,711 feet. Apart from these ranges, there are many other isolated hills and peaks. There are numerous small rivers throughout the island, the longest being about 25 miles. Most of the rivers are short and fast-flowing owing to the steepness of the slope from the central plateau to the sea. Waterfalls are not uncommon in Mauritius and some of the larger have been harnessed to supply hydro-electric power. There are only two natural lakes on the island, Grand Bassin and Bassin Blanc. Five reservoirs supply water for domestic use, irrigation and hydro-electric purposes.

Mauritius is one of the most thickly populated countries in the world ; its 720 square miles carry a population of 539,000, i.e., about 737 inhabitants per square mile—a staggering figure for an agricultural country. The population of the main towns is as follows: —

Port Louis	72,750
Curepipe...	23,100
Quatre Bornes	18,200
Rose Hill—Beau Bassin ...	29,600

The chief industry of the island is sugar production and sugar-cane fields may be seen all over the island. From the hill tops the ground looks like an immense green lawn, regularly intersected by silver-grey and black ribbons of roads. Remnants of the native forests of the island cover a total area of some 15,000 acres: they are to be found in the mountainous and less accessible regions. The

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Forest Department is actively replanting with exotic tree species—principally Pines, Eucalyptus, Camphor, Juniper, and Araucarias—those areas where secondary scrub forest has replaced native forests which were cleared many years ago in the process of extending sugarcane cultivation. All round the coast there is a fringe of either casuarina (" filaos ") or coconut trees.

The Colony is comparatively isolated in the Indian Ocean 500 miles east of Madagascar. Strategically, it is placed at the crossing of the sea routes linking Australia, India and the East Indies with South Africa. Steamers, en route from the Far East to South Africa, call regularly at Mauritius, as do the French ships, serving the neighbouring French island of Réunion. During the war a modern airport was built at Plaisance, in the southern part of the island and there are regular air services linking Mauritius with Europe, South Africa and Australia.

The Colony of Mauritius has a number of island dependencies in the Indian Ocean. These are: Rodrigues 350 miles to the east, Chagos Archipelago 1,180 miles north-east in the direction of Ceylon, Agalega 580 miles and Cargados Carajos 250 miles north of Mauritius.

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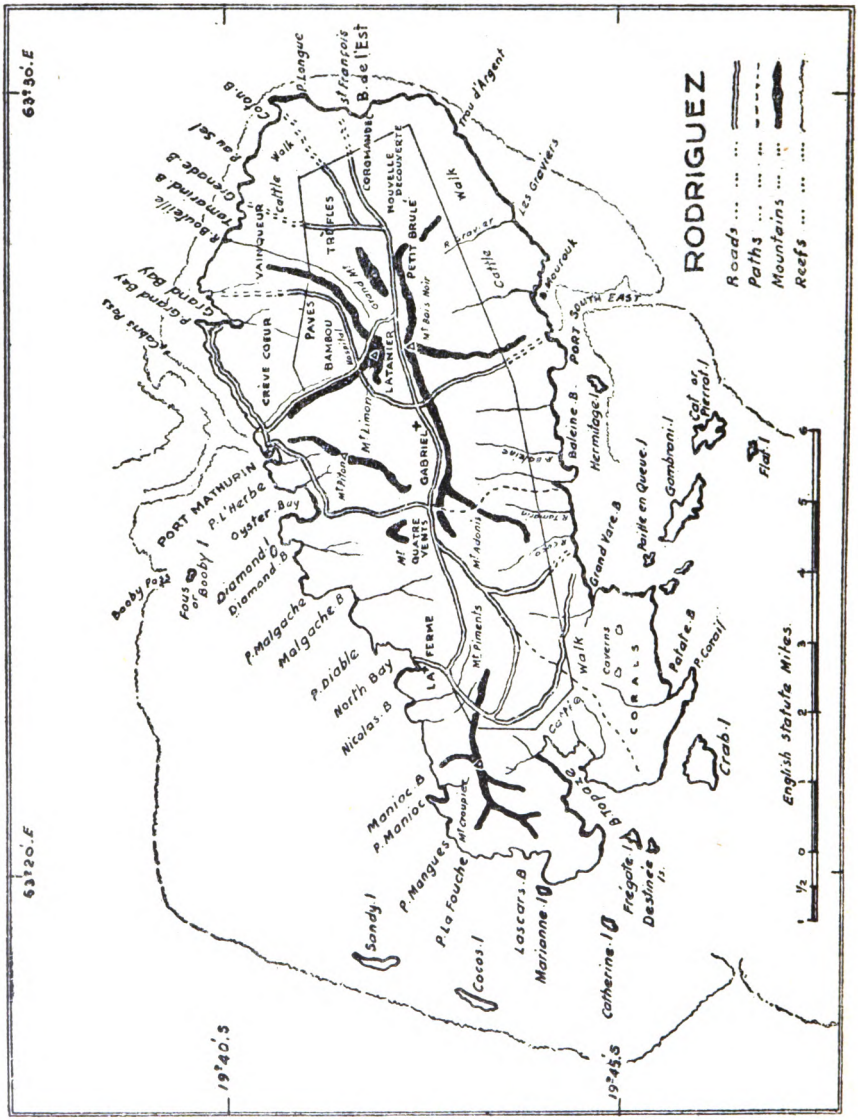
Rodrigues, the principal dependency, is a mountainous island of volcanic formation encircled by a coral reef and has a total area of about 40 square miles. It measures 9½ miles in length by 4½ miles in width and has a population of about 14,000 inhabitants mostly fishermen and small cultivators. Soil erosion in Rodrigues is causing the



authorities some anxiety and efforts are being made to encourage contour planting and the development of co-operative societies which will inculcate better methods of agriculture. Rodrigues is under the charge of a Magistrate and Civil Commissioner, aided by officers of the police, health and agricultural departments.

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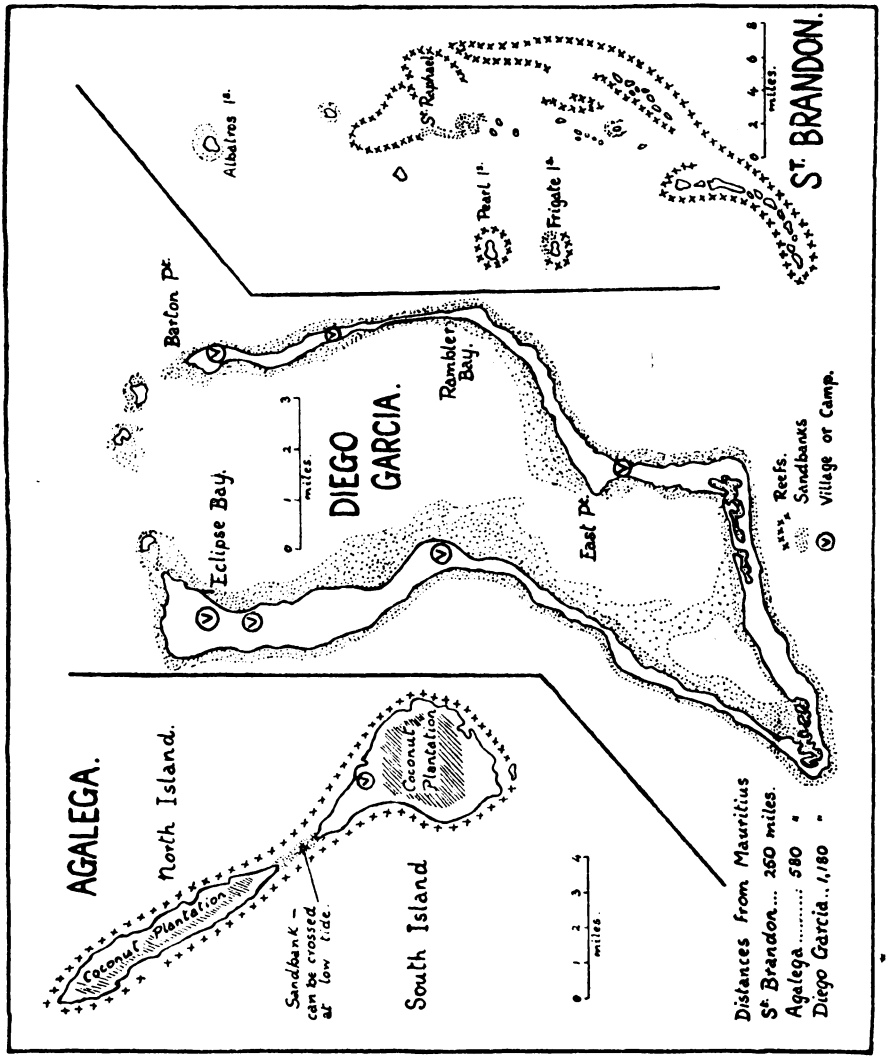

Chagos consists of five groups of coral islands, the biggest of which is Diego Garcia. The horseshoe-shaped ribbon of land lying just above sea-level, surrounds a lagoon thirteen miles long and between four and five miles wide. Diego was of strategic importance during World War II.

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Agalega consists of two small islands, separated by a narrow strip of sandbank. This dependency is the main source of copra for the edible oil industry of Mauritius.

The archipelago of Cargados Carajos, usually referred to by the name of the principal islet, St. Brandon, is a fishing station leased to a Mauritian Company. At present the fish taken in the waters of St. Brandon are dried and salted for export to Mauritius.

CLIMATE

Mauritius lies just within the tropics, but it is a small land mass without any large land area in its vicinity. It has, therefore, a maritime climate, tropical maritime during summer and sub-tropical in winter. This differs appreciably from the climate of a place on the same latitude on a large continent. Very high temperatures are not experienced in summer, nor particularly low ones in winter. Except in localities at or near sea-level, especially along the north-west coast and during occasional dry spells, rainfall is sufficient to maintain a green cover of vegetation throughout the year. On the other hand, owing to the high relative humidity, there are periods in summer, particularly when there is little or no wind, when considerable physical discomfort is felt, especially at or near sea-level, even though the temperatures are not extremely high. On the central plateau, which is between 1,000 and 2,000 feet above sea-level, it is comparatively cool almost all the year round. Heavy rains fall in summer, though there is no regular rainy season. In winter, it is cold and wet on the higher parts but cool round the coast. During this period there is a general exodus to the seaside. The bathing beaches with their white coral sand and calm, safe lagoons for bathing, fishing, swimming and boating are attractive and have been favourably compared by travellers with the well-known tourist resorts of Hawaii and other Pacific Islands.

The island is in the region of tropical cyclones of the South Indian Ocean ; the official cyclone season begins in November and ends in May. Cyclones are occasionally very severe, causing widespread destruction to crops, trees and buildings, and sometimes loss of life. Fortunately, visitations of this catastrophic nature are relatively infrequent.

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The following is a summary of the main climatological features.

Seasons

The year can be divided approximately into two seasons: summer, from November to April and winter, from May to October, though April to June, and the months September and October can be looked upon as transitional periods. The driest period from September to November is probably the pleasantest part of the year in all parts of the island.

Rainfall

The average annual rainfall, at or near sea-level, is 50 inches or less, the minimum being about 30 inches in the western and north-western coastal areas. The amount increases steadily with altitude, and reaches nearly 200 inches on the highest part of the central plateau, at about 2,000 feet above sea-level.

Summer rainfall produces by far the larger proportion of the total for the year and has three main sources. The first, very common in late November and in December, comes from instability showers or " convectional " rain falling in the early afternoon in calm, or nearly calm weather. The second is associated with generally cloudy weather in troughs of low pressure. The third comes from tropical cyclones which, if at a distance from the island, often give beneficial rain without destructive wind force but which cause much damage and very excessive rainfall if passing over or near to the island.

Winter rainfall is mostly of an orographic nature, produced by the lifting and cooling of the trade wind stream as it passes over the island. It is in the form of light rain or drizzle, most of which falls over the central high ground, particularly on the south-eastern side.

True droughts are rare, except near sea-level, but the very large deficiencies which occur from time to time, more often in early summer, are particularly important during the season of rapid growth of the sugarcane from December to April.

Temperatures

The mean temperature varies from 74°F, at sea-level to 67°F. at 2,000 feet, and the mean annual range is 11°F. The highest and

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lowest values recorded at the Observatory, Pamplemousses, at an altitude of 180 feet, are 94·8°F and 49·9°F respectively, and the minimum at 1,850 feet is 44·9°F. The mean daily range is 13·5°F.

Humidity

The mean monthly relative humidity increases from about 70 per cent near sea-level in October and November to nearly 90 per cent at 1,850 feet in March. One hundred per cent humidity is quite frequently attained on the highest parts of the plateau and occasionally near sea-level. The lowest value recorded at the Observatory, Pamplemousses is 33 per cent. The mean daily range varies from 19 per cent in April to 31 per cent in November at 180 feet.

Sunshine

The average number of hours per day of bright sunshine is 7·8 at 180 feet and 7·0 at 1,400 feet. October to December are the months with most sunshine.

Winds

During the winter months, with only occasional interruptions due to low pressure south of Mauritius, the island experiences steady south-east to east-south-east trade winds of moderate strength. Occasionally they become fairly strong for a day or two but do not reach gale force.

In summer the trades are normally of light to moderate force from the east or east-north-east and interruptions are much more frequent. When these interruptions are due to low pressure to the west or south the winds become northerly or westerly and are very humid and rather warm ; when due to a tropical cyclone they may come from any direction and be of any force up to hurricane strength.

Tropical Cyclones

Cyclones occur during the summer season, usually between November and May but they have been known to affect Mauritius slightly, on rare occasions, in September and October. The greatest frequency of occurrence is in January and February but March is also an important month as cyclones occurring then damage the more fully grown sugarcane crop to a greater extent.

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Over the period for which data are available, nearly 100 years, cyclones have caused winds with gust speeds reaching about 100 miles per hour on two or three occasions and gust speeds reaching 60 miles per hour on about thirty occasions. The highest wind speeds so far recorded were in April, 1892, when the average wind speed over a whole hour reached 76 miles per hour and gust speeds were estimated at 114 miles per hour. The winds near the centre of a tropical cyclone are extremely gusty and this, as well as the torrential rain that occurs, adds very considerably to the damage caused to the weaker buildings and to the summer vegetation which is in its most luxuriant state.

The distribution of cyclones over the years is very irregular. It is possible, as in 1945, for the island to be struck by two destructive cyclones in a matter of weeks: on the other hand periods of 5 years and more sometimes occur with no gale winds. This year was the ninth in succession in which no damage was caused by cyclones—the length of this period of freedom from such catastrophies has never been equalled in the past 100 years.

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Chapter 2—History

The island of Mauritius was probably visited both by Arab sailors and by Malays during the Middle Ages, and on maps of about 1500 it is shown with an Arabic name. During the early sixteenth century Portuguese sailors visited it several times, and the first European to discover Mauritius is believed to have been Domingos Fernandez. The island appears on many sixteenth century maps with the Portuguese name of Cerné or Cirné.

Dutch sailors first visited the island in 1598 and renamed it Mauritius, after their ruler Prince Maurice of Nassau ; later they made frequent calls on their trading expeditions to the East Indies. First-hand accounts of these visits exist, and of visits by English, French and Danish ships, which called at Mauritius for water, food and cargoes of ebony wood. An English trading company planned to occupy the island, but was forestalled in 1638 by a Dutch company, whose settlement lasted (with a gap from 1658 to 1664) until 1710. It was from Mauritius in 1642 that Tasman set out on his most important voyage of Australasian discovery.

The Dutch settlers never numbered much over three hundred (adults, children and slaves all counted) and the most useful element was a group of twenty or thirty farmers, rearing cattle, hunting, fishing and growing food crops as well as some tobacco. But the settlement never developed enough to produce dividends, and the Dutch company finally abandoned it in 1710. The most noteworthy results of this Dutch occupation were the exploitation of the island's great ebony forests and the extinction of the Dodo, a bird peculiar to Mauritius, often mentioned by early seventeenth-century travellers. The Dutch are also to be remembered for the introduction of sugarcane, cotton, domestic animals and deer. Prior to the Dutch occupation the island was uninhabited. The slaves introduced into Mauritius by the Dutch were brought from Madagascar.

The French in 1715 claimed the island and called it *Ile de France,* but do not seem to have settled any of their surplus Bourbon colonists there until 1722. In the intervals, European pirates from Madagascar and ships of the British Navy, searching for the pirates, were almost the only visitors to the deserted island.

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From 1722 till about 1767 Mauritius was governed by the French East India Company. From 1767 to 1810 it was in charge of officials appointed by the French Government, apart from the brief period of independence under the Colonial Assembly during the French Revolution. In 1735 the population had grown to almost one thousand (two hundred of them Europeans) and, from the time of the governorship of Mahé de Labourdonnais onwards, increased rapidly, reaching nearly twenty thousand in 1767 (fifteen thousand of them slaves). Labourdonnais did more than any other Governor to change what was a petty outpost into a strong, prosperous and well populated colony. Much of the land was divided into concessions of approximately a quarter-mile by a mile, and most of these were farmed. Coffee, manioc, maize, vegetables, fruit, indigo, cloves and sugar were among the crops grown. There was some rearing of poultry, goats and cattle.

Towards the end of the Company's rule of the island, Port Louis, the capital, was a lair of speculators and adventurers, desirous of returning to Europe as soon as they had made their fortunes. During the wars of the eighteenth century (Austrian Succession War, Seven Years War, and War of American Independence), the island became a naval depot, supplying French fleets fighting the British in the Indian Ocean, and was the pivot of French schemes to drive the British out of their Indian trading settlements. It was also a port of call for several expeditions, notably that of Bougainville, and was described by many French travellers, of whom the best known is Bernardin de Saint Pierre, author of *Paul et Virginie*.

From 1767, under royal government, the population continued to increase, reaching thirty thousand in 1777, forty thousand in 1787, and nearly sixty thousand in 1797 (including fifty thousand slaves from Madagascar and Africa). During the French Revolution the inhabitants of Mauritius set up a government virtually independent of France, because the property owners were resolved to defend their interest against the *jacobins* and *sans culottes* and to resist the attempt made by the French revolutionary government to release the slaves. The Colonial Assembly organised successful and damaging raids on English commerce, whenever England and France were at war. The raids continued while Decaen, one of Napoleon's generals, was Governor, until 1810 when a strong

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British expedition, long planned and more than once postponed, was sent to capture the island. A preliminary attack was foiled at Grand Port in August 1810, but the main attack, launched in December of the same year with larger forces, was successful. Bourbon and Rodrigues were also occupied by the British in 1810, but, by the Treaty of Paris in 1814, Bourbon was given back to France. Mauritius and its dependencies, including Rodrigues and Seychelles, were then ceded definitely to Great Britain.

Many English officials were brought in, together with a large garrison of several regiments. By 1870 the garrison had been gradually reduced to half a battalion, which was still further reduced after 1914. Few English merchants and private persons have settled in Mauritius, whose European population has remained mainly French in language and sentiment although loyal to the British Crown. After 1825, the island flourished, especially by the export of sugar to England, the crop increasing from 14,000 tons to 34,000 tons in the decade 1823–33. During these early years the English Government's policy of suppression of the slave trade and the consequent plans to free the slaves were opposed until a sum of two million pounds sterling was paid to the slave owners as compensation for the loss of their slaves. To replace the freed slaves, labourers were brought from India to work in the fields. The population, which in 1833 had reached a hundred thousand (three quarters of them slaves), had by 1861 risen to three hundred thousand, nearly two hundred thousand of them being immigrants from India, most of whom remained to settle in Mauritius.

With the aid of immigrant labourers, imported fertilizers, improved methods of agriculture and richer cane varieties, the sugar crop rose to 70,000 tons in 1853, 150,000 tons by 1900, and in 1953 reached the record figure of 512,000 tons. In the interest of the sugar industry, forests were cut down, labourers brought in, reservoir and irrigation schemes carried out, new government departments set up and technicians trained. As Joseph Conrad wrote: " First rate sugarcane is grown there. All the population lives for it and by it. Sugar is their daily bread."

Other industries were sporadically encouraged and usually neglected. After the slaves had been freed, much less food was grown locally, and more was imported, especially rice, from India.

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This became the staple food of the population and remained so, except when, in the 1939–45 war, rice supplies from Burma and India were cut off and imported flour and local crops had to be used as substitutes. When boom prices were being paid for sugar, after the 1914–18 war, various minor industries including tea, brick and tile manufacture, tobacco, aloe fibre bags and a government dairy were developed.

One side of Mauritian history is concerned with cyclones, epidemics and crop pests, which from time to time have upset the economy of the island. In the eighteen-fifties there were epidemics of cholera and in the eighteen-sixties five years of epidemic malaria which caused the death of 20,000 people in Port Louis alone in 1867 and the mass migration of thousands of persons, including almost all the well-to-do, from Port Louis and the coastal districts to the higher, healthier parts of Plaines Wilhems. Curepipe, a scattered village in 1865, was by 1895 large enough to have a town board, nominated annually by the Governor, and by 1952 was a town of over 22,000 people. The district of Plaines Wilhems, which in 1851 had 14,000 inhabitants, grew to 75,000 in 1921 and 150,000 in 1952. The cyclone of 1892, in which 1,200 persons were killed ; the epidemic of sura in 1902, which killed off all the draught oxen and caused sugar estates hurriedly to import light railways ; bubonic plague in 1899 ; the *Phytalus Smithi* beetle, which, in 1911, was found to be attacking the sugarcane ; the 1919 epidemic of influenza ; the spread of malaria during the nineteen-thirties into the hills and higher districts ; and, finally, three cyclones and a serious outbreak of infantile paralysis in 1945, are some of the greater misfortunes woven into the pattern of the island's history.

When sugar prices were high and the island was prosperous, living conditions were improved in various ways. The sanitation of Port Louis was improved in the eighteen-nineties, after long discussion. Sir Ronald Ross's visit, in 1908, led to useful anti-malarial work during the next twenty years. Reservoirs at Mare-aux-Vacoas (1893–95), La Ferme (1918), and La Nicolière (1924) brought irrigation and domestic water to private houses and to sugar estates, in several districts. Child welfare and similar activities developed in the war years. After expert inquiries in 1921, the water supply of Port Louis was greatly improved, and the port itself was modernised. Under the stimulus of the

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Colonial Development and Welfare Acts more money was spent on education in the nineteen-forties. Prior to 1937 government revenue had come mainly from taxes on goods entering or leaving the island as well as on various local products. A graduated poll tax on incomes was introduced and, within ten years, had almost doubled government revenue. The poll tax was replaced by an income tax as from the 1st of July, 1951. The revenue from this source rose from Rs 17,322,000 in the financial year 1950–51 to Rs 30,867,741 in the financial year 1953–54.

When sugar prices were low or climatic difficulties discouraging, the island had, at intervals, to raise loans or obtain grants from London. This happened in 1892, in 1908 when a Royal Commission of Inquiry under Sir Frank Swettenham was sent out from England, in 1930 when government expenditure on public works and on salaries was cut, and in 1945, as the consequence of the disastrous cyclones of that year.

The main political events of the period 1850–1900 were the establishment of the Municipality of Port Louis in 1850, the Royal Commission of Enquiry on Indian Immigration in 1872, and the creation of a Council of Government including elected members in 1886.

The early years of the present century were a period of slow recovery after the epidemics, cyclones and other calamities. The years that immediately followed the 1914–18 war were years of unprecedented prosperity, owing to a boom in sugar prices, but this prosperity did not last long. During the second World War, Mauritius assumed considerable strategic importance through the closing of the Suez Canal and the threat to India by the Japanese after their conquest of most of the European settlements in the Far East. The population at large played a valuable part in the organisation of local, military and passive defence and a large number of the Colony's youth volunteered to serve overseas.

Political, social and economic problems have lately claimed the attention of both the local and the Home Government. In 1947 Letters Patent were issued granting the Colony a broader political franchise and in 1948 Mauritius took a step nearer that self-government which it temporarily enjoyed in the days of the French Revolution. During 1954 informal discussions on further constitutional changes began.

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Chapter 3—Administration

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

A Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. In the following year the Constitution was amended and a Council which included unofficial members was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and an equal number of other persons, to be taken from the chief landowners and principal merchants of the Colony ; seven officials and seven non-officials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October 1885. The Council of Government under the revised Constitution was composed of the Governor, eight ex-officio members, nine members nominated by the Governor, and ten members elected by the people ; of the latter, two represented the town of Port Louis, the capital of the island, and the remaining eight represented the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council, who were to be non-officials and, although no provision to that effect was made in the Letters Patent, the nominated non-official members were allowed a free vote on all occasions. The Constitution of the Executive Council, which had hitherto been composed of the Governor and four ex-officio members, was amended at the same time, and the practice of appointing non-official members to the Council which prevailed prior to the report of the Royal Commission of 1909 was revived.

The normal life of a Council is five years, but the last one to sit under the 1933 Constitution lasted from 1936 to June 1948. This long extension was due, first of all, to the war and, subsequently, to the delay in arriving at a final decision on the new and more liberal Constitution. The protracted labours of the Consultative Committee on the revision of the constitution had ended in a virtual stalemate. In 1947, the then Governor, Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, broke this slatemate by submitting to the Secretary of State revised proposals, based on his belief that the bulk of the population was not ready for fully democratic

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institutions. To guard against possible abuse, certain safeguards were suggested, but within these limitations, the widest possible measure of enfranchisement, on the basis of a " simple literacy " requirement, was recommended by the Governor.

His recommendations were accepted and embodied in the Letters Patent, Royal Instructions and Order in Council dated the 9th December, 1947. General elections were held on the 9th and 10th August, 1948, and the new Council met on the first day of September.

Under the new constitution, British subjects, male or female, of 21 years of age or upwards, who have been ordinarily and *bona fide* residents in the Colony for a period of two years preceding an election, and.

(a) being originally resident in some electoral district, are able to read and write simple sentences and sign their names in one of certain specified languages, to the satisfaction of the Registering Officer, or

(b) being ordinarily resident in some electoral district, are qualified as serving in the Forces, or as ex-servicemen discharged, with certificate of satisfactory service, or

(c) have been for six months previous to the date of registration, owners or occupiers of business premises in an electoral district

are entitled to vote. An elector may have a vote under *(c)*, in addition to a vote under *(a)* or *(b)*, provided that he qualifies in respect of separate districts. Aliens, those under 21 years of age, those not possessing the residence qualification, criminals serving an unexpired sentence of over 12 months, the insane and, finally, those " disqualified for registration by any law for the time being in force in the Colony relating to offences connected with elections " are debarred from a vote.

Electoral districts were regrouped under the Order in Council dated December 1947. Plaines Wilhems and Black River were joined together to form one electoral district returning six members. The electoral districts of Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart, Moka—Flacq and Grand Port—Savanne each return three members, and the capital constituency of Port Louis has four members, by virtue of its dense population and commercial importance.

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Under the 1933 Constitution, the number of registered electors was never greater than 12,000 (the figure for December 1947 was 11,799). The number of registered electors under the new Constitution in 1948 was six times greater—71,723 having qualified to vote in the 1948 elections. The number of registered electors at the end of 1954 had risen to 91,646.

The Legislative Council is now composed of 3 *ex-officio*, 12 nominated non-official and 19 elected members, under the presidency of the Governor with a Vice-President elected by the Council from amongst its members (at present an elected Member). The Executive Council consists of 3 officials (the Colonial Secretary, the Financial Secretary and the Procureur General), four members selected for appointment by the Legislative Council from amongst the non-official members, and such other members as the Governor may appoint (recent practice has been for the Governor to appoint two members of the Legislative Council).

The names of members of the Executive Council and the Legislative Council and the changes in composition during the year are given in Appendices II and III to this Report.

In debates in the Legislative Council Members may speak either in English or in French.

In April 1951, the Governor announced to the Legislative Council a scheme to bring Unofficial Members in closer touch with certain government departments and thus give them the opportunity to gain fuller knowledge of departmental policy and take their share with the Governor in framing it. The duties of the " Liaison Officers " as they are called, were defined as follows:—

(a) Thoroughly to familiarize themselves with the policy set out by the Government for the working of their departments and to bring before the Governor in Council such proposals for modification or alteration in government policy as they may think fit.

(b) Thoroughly to familiarize themselves with the steps taken by their departments to carry out the approved government policy; and, after consultation with the Departmental head, to make such suggestions as they may think fit to the Governor-in-Council for improvement in the execution of such policy.

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(c) To discuss with the Departmental head, and with any appropriate Committee, the preparation of the department's annual estimates, and any application for supplementary provision and to make any representations in connection therewith, which they may think fit, to the Governor-in-Council.

Liaison Officers, as such, are not concerned with appointments, promotions or discipline. These, under the constitution of the Colony, are matters for the Secretary of State, the Governor, or the Governor-in-Council alone. The names of the Liaison Officers in 1954 are given in Appendix IV to this Report. So far only Members of the Executive Council have been appointed.

The head of the Civil Service is the Colonial Secretary. He is the Governor's chief adviser on administrative and political matters, the Financial Secretary advising on financial and economic policy.

Local Government—Rural

A fresh start in rural local government was made in October 1946, when a Civil Commissioner was appointed to take charge of the southern districts of Grand Port and Savanne. In May 1947, a second Civil Commissioner was appointed for the northern districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart, and a third Civil Commissioner, for the districts of Moka and Flacq, assumed duty towards the end of 1948. In October 1952, Black River was added to the Southern districts under the jurisdiction of the Civil Commissioner for the South. The rural parts of Plaines Wilhems and the Port Louis district still remain outside the pattern of district administration. The Civil Commissioner is the principal administrative and executive officer of Government in his district and is responsible for coordinating the whole machinery of Government. The relationship between the Civil Commissioner and his technical colleagues in the district is similar in kind to that between the Governor and Heads of Departments. He is also responsible for the development of local government organisations in his district and for ensuring the welfare of its inhabitants by all means at his disposal.

Village Councils were first constituted in 1947. A few councils developed very rapidly indeed and were given government contracts for such services as scavenging and the upkeep of cemeteries.

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With funds provided by the central administration, councils undertook road repairs and the construction of bridges, markets, water supplies, latrines, primary school buildings, a day nursery and even a housing experiment. Not all village councils have reached the same standard.

New impetus has been given to rural local government by the Village Council and District Council Ordinances which came into force on the 9th of February and on the 15th of October, 1952, respectively. Regular elections, powers to raise taxes, own property and make bye-laws greatly enhanced the status of the village councils. The District Council which advises the Civil Commissioner on matters of policy, allocates funds to village councils and generally correlates their work, is able to raise certain taxes not applicable to any one village. At the end of 1952, District Councils were set up in each of the three Civil Commissioners' districts following elections held under the Ordinance.

There were at the end of 1954, 28 Village Councils in the South, 28 in Moka—Flacq and 31 in the North.

Village Councils consist of eight members elected on a liberal franchise and four members nominated by the Governor. District Councils consist of the Civil Commissioner and thirteen other members. These thirteen members are: an elected member of the Legislative Council appointed by the Governor (usually the first member for the District) ; a sugar estate Manager appointed by the Governor from among those in the district ; a President of a Co-operative Society elected by the Presidents of Co-operative Societies in the District; representatives of the Medical, Education and Public Works and Surveys departments appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Head of Department ; and seven Chairmen of Village Councils elected by the Chairmen of Village Councils in the district. The Chairman is elected by the members of the District Council from amongst their number and has so far been the Civil Commissioner. The Local Government Officer is the Secretary and Treasurer of the District Council.

Urban

The larger urban areas of Mauritius have had their own local government organisations for many years.

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The constitution of the Municipality of Port Louis, which was first established in 1849, was modified at the end of 1950, by Ordinance No. 35, which increased the membership of the Council from 12 to 16 and provided suffrage on practically the same basis as the local parliamentary suffrage. There were 3,485 registered electors in 1948 ; at the end of 1954 the number was 19,963.

The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are appointed by the Council, subject to confirmation by the Governor.

In the Plaines Wilhems district, the three Boards of Commissioners, described in previous annual reports, have now been superseded by Town Councils in which the members are partly elected, and partly nominated by the Governor. The Town Councils of Curepipe and Beau Bassin—Rose Hill are composed of nine elected and four nominated members, and that of Quatre Bornes of seven elected, and three nominated members. In December, 1954, the electors on the roll of the three Town Councils numbered 6,855, 6,472 and 3,509 respectively.

A Select Committee of the Legislative Council appointed to examine and report upon proposals for the declaration as towns of Vacoas—Phoenix and Mahebourg submitted its report on the 16th of December. The recommendations included the creation of three new Townships: Mahebourg, in the district of Grand Port and Phoenix and Vacoas in the Plaines Wilhems district. The Committee's Report is under examination.

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Chapter 4—Weights and Measures

The Metric system is in general use in the Colony. Certain French measures are still used in connection with measurements of land, the more common being:—

1 French foot	=	1.06 English feet
1 Arpent	=	40,000 square French feet or 1.04 acres
1 Toise	=	6 French feet or 2 yds 4 inches

The following measures of capacity are also in use:—

1 bouteille	=	800 c.c. (liquid)
1 chopine	=	half-bouteille
1 Corde	=	80 French cubic feet or 96.82 English cubic feet (used only to measure firewood).

A measure of length commonly used in the field is the *Gaulette* which is equivalent to 10 French feet. The term *livre* is used currently to mean half a kilogram.

The Weights and Measures Control Section of the Police Force is responsible for examining and stamping weights, scales, weighing machines, measures of length and measures of capacity. This section also deals with all inaccurate weights and measures seized by the uniformed Police and issues the necessary certificates for production in Court. The control of weighbridges on sugar estates is the responsibility of the Central Board constituted under the Sale of Canes (Control) Ordinance.

84 offences under the Weights and Measures Ordinance were detected during the year and 52 weights, 11 measures of capacity and 18 scales were seized.

The following is a statement showing the number of weights and measures stamped during the years 1952, 1953 and 1954:—

	1952	*1953*	*1954*
Weights	31,419	33,940	32,852
Scales	6,587	6,820	7,085
Measures of capacity ...	2,710	1,937	1,385
Measures of length	331	371	377
Weighing machines	127	132	177

The amount of duty collected on weights and measures in 1954 was Rs. 9,969.50 cs. as against Rs. 10,270.40 cs. in 1953 and Rs. 9,759.85 cs. in 1952.

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Chapter 5—Reading List

Appendix V to this Report gives a list of Development and Welfare publications issued by the Government of Mauritius since 1944 and Appendix VI a list of leading books on Mauritius compiled from Dr. A. Toussaint's *Select Bibliography of Mauritius* 1951, with subsequent additions.

Appendix VII gives a list of publications printed in Mauritius in 1954 and deposited in the Archives Department under Ordinance No. 71 of 1952.

An exhaustive bibliography of Mauritius is being compiled by the Archives Department of the Colony and will be published in 1955.

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APPENDIX I

(Part I—Review of 1954)

Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Summary of Estimated Revenue

	Estimated Receipts over Ten-Year Period
	Rs.
Colonial Development and Welfare Fund (the Colony's allocation under the Colonial Development and Welfare Act, 1945) ...	24,266,600
Colonial Development and Welfare Fund (Research)	2,240,000
Colonial Development and Welfare Fund (Central Allocation)	685,000
Loan Funds	60,500,000
Subventions and Reimbursements from local funds and General Revenue	21,540,000
TOTAL Rs.	109,231,600

The details of the contributions from local sources are :

	Rs.
Surplus Funds	11,300,000
Mauritius 3% Loan 1961	3,140,754
War Risk Insurance Fund	770,405
Contribution from Revenue and other receipts	6,328,841
TOTAL Rs.	21,540,000

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APPENDIX I—*continued*

Summary of Expenditure

	Estimated Expenditure over Ten-Year Period	*Actual Expenditure 1.7.46 to 30.6.54*
	Rs.	Rs. c.
Administration	2,500,000	4,523,835 35
Agriculture	4,615,000	3,433,967 82
Education (Teachers' Training College) ...	1,065,711	1,065,711 22
Health	6,000,000	5,892,279 09
Nutrition	260,609	260,608 99
Settlement	830,000	760,937 19
Irrigation and Water Supplies	35,825,000	23,639,603 86
Buildings	12,900,000	8,034,980 30
Roads	2,842,000	3,326,185 19
Research...	8,000,000	7,181,299 40
Sugar Industry	5,728,908	5,728,908 00
Interest Charges	—	—
Scholarships and Training Grants	370,000	76,999 27
Sewerage	712,000	590,208 70
Secondary Industries ...	8,275,000	5,123,069 43
Forestry	750,000	959,408 11
Housing	10,625,000	3,150,000 00
Agricultural Development ...	5,000,000	58,287 97
Rodrigues	1,600,000	384,785 23
Unallocated	999,167	—
TOTAL Rs.	108,898,395	74,191,075 12

The Expenditure for the period 1946–54 was financed as follows :—

	Rs. c.
From the Colonial Development and Welfare Fund	19,129,663 48
From Loan Funds	33,756,554 01
From Subventions and Reimbursements ...	21,304,857 63
TOTAL Rs.	74,191,075 12

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APPENDIX I—*continued*

Approved grants under the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts

Development Grants (Mauritius Allocation)

Scheme No.	*Description*	*Amount of Grant* £	*Amount of Grant* Rs.
D. 285 ...	Anti-malaria survey ...	2,850	38,000
D. 301 ...	Census	6,300	84,000
D. 397 ...	Secretary Development and Welfare	2,150	28,667
D. 747 ...	Teachers' Training College (Building)	2,860	38,133
D. 667 D. 667A	Employment of Woman Nutrition Officer for 3 years	2,280	30,400
D. 670 D. 667G D. 667G(A) D. 706 D. 760 D. 770 D. 1022 D. 1217 D. 1457 D. 1481	Scholarships	20,491	273,213
D. 736 D. 736A	Appointment of Land Settlement Officer	4,970	66,266
D. 746 (A–G) ...	Anti-Malaria Works ...	375,000	5,000,000
D. 983 ...	Construction of a Pilot Decorticating Machine ...	1,000	13,333
D. 1449 D. 1449A	Pilot Land Settlement Scheme	50,625	675,000
D. 1593 D. 1593A	Teachers' Training College Beau Bassin	40,730	543,066
D. 1737 ...	Irrigation and Domestic Water Supply	715,000	9,533,333
D. 1766 ...	Education Department Buildings	196,950	2,626,000
D. 1826 ...	Development of Crown Forest Estate	70,000	933,333
	TOTAL ...	1,491,206	19,882,744

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APPENDIX I—*continued*

Development Grants (Central Allocation)

Scheme No.	*Description*	*Amount of Grant* £	*Rs.*
D. 694 ...	Scholarships	28,000	373,333
D. 1046 ...	Geological Survey	1,900	25,333
D. 1246 ...	Broadcasting Development ...	265	3,533
D. 1580 D. 1580A	Aeronautical Equipment ...	11,750	156,666
D. 1617 ...	Broadcasting Development ...	15,000	200,000
D. 1997 ...	Colonial Food Yeast ...	9,248	123,306
	TOTAL ...	66,163	882,171
	Research Grants		
R. 19 ...	Marine Biological Investigation	4,500	60,000
R. 38 R. 38A	Biological Control of *Cordia Macrostachya*	4,730	63,066
R 39 ...	Establishment of a Fisheries Research Station	2,850	38,000
R. 52 R. 52A	Poliomyelitis Research ...	470	6,266
R. 88 (A–J) ...	Mauritius–Seychelles Fisheries Survey	52,794	703,920
R. 138 ...	Visit of an Expert to investigate the economic possibilities of using night soil for the manufacture of compost.	430	5,733
R. 190 ...	Experiment in the growing of *Aleurites Fordii*	340	4,533
R. 227 R. 227A R. 227B	*Mosquito* Eradication Campaign	111,880	1,491,733
R. 543 ...	Entomological Research ...	11,100	148,000
R. 563 ...	Colonial Insecticide Research	480	6,400
	TOTAL ...	189,574	2,527,651

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APPENDIX II

(Part III—Chapter 3 : Administration)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1954

President

His Excellency ROBERT NEWTON, Esq., C.M.G., from 1st January to 21st March.

His Excellency SIR ROBERT SCOTT, K.C.M.G, from 22nd March.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

J. S. RENNIE, Esq., *(Acting)* from 1st January to 21st March.

ROBERT NEWTON, Esq., C.M.G., from 22nd March.

The Honourable the Procureur and Advocate General.

R. ESPITALIER-NOËL, Esq., Q.C. from 1st January to 17th October.

R. NEERUNJUN, Esq., O.B.E., from 18th October to 31st December.

The Honourable the Financial Secretary.

H. J. HINCHEY, Esq.

Selected for appointment by the Governor

Dr. the Honourable S. RAMGOOLAM.

Dr. the Honourable C. E. MILLIEN.

The Honourable A. GUJADHUR.

The Honourable A. L. NAIRAC, C.B.E.

Appointed by the Governor

The Honourable R. SEENEEVASSEN.

The Honourable F. G. MARTIAL, O.B.E.

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APPENDIX III

(Part III—Chapter 3 : Administration)

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE FOR THE YEAR 1954

President

His Excellency ROBERT NEWTON, Esq., C.M.G., from 1st January to 21st March.

His Excellency SIR ROBERT SCOTT, K.C.M.G., from 22nd March to 31st December.

Vice-President

The Honourable H. R. VAGHJEE.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

J. S. RENNIE, Esq., *(Acting)* from 1st January to 21st March.

ROBERT NEWTON, Esq., C.M.G., from 22nd March to 31st December.

The Honourable the Procureur and Advocate General

R. ESPITALIER-NOËL, Esq., Q.C., from 1st January to 17th October.

R. NEERUNJUN, Esq., O.B.E., from 18th October to 31st December.

The Honourable the Financial Secretary.

H. J. HINCHEY, Esq.

Elected Members

Dr. the Honourable S. RAMGOOLAM, for Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart.

Dr. the Honourable C. E. MILLIEN, for Port Louis.

The Honourable R. SEENEEVASSEN, for Port Louis.

The Honourable A. GUJADHUR, for Moka—Flacq.

The Honourable J. M. J. L. M. J. KŒNIG, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

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APPENDIX III—*continued*

The Honourable A. BEEJADHUR, for Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart.

The Honourable S. BISSOONDOYAL, for Grand Port—Savanne.

The Honourable J. G. FORGET, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable P. G. R. RAULT, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable J. G. ROZEMONT, for Port Louis.

The Honourable V. RINGADOO, for Moka—Flacq.

Dr. the Honourable R. BHAGEERUTTY, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable S. BOOLELL, for Moka—Flacq.

The Honourable F. S. CHADIEN, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

Dr. the Honourable L. R. CHAPERON, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable A. R. MOHAMED, for Port Louis.

The Honourable L. P. ROZEMONT, for Grand Port—Savanne.

The Honourable G. VENKATASAMY, for Grand Port—Savanne.

Nominated Members

The Honourable A. L. NAIRAC, C.B.E.

The Honourable F. G. MARTIAL, O.B.E.

The Honourable A. M. OSMAN, O.B.E.

Dr. the Honourable A. E. DE CHAZAL, O.B.E.

The Honourable J. E. M. L. AH-CHUEN.

The Honourable M. A. D. R. MAIGROT, O.B.E.

The Honourable A. G. SAUZIER.

The Honourable A. RAFFRAY, Q.C.

The Honourable H. A. BAHEMIA.

Dr. the Honourable L. A. CELESTIN, M.C.

The Honourable G. J. M. SCHILLING.

The Honourable D. TAYLOR.

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APPENDIX IV

(Part III—Chapter 3 : Administration)

LIAISON OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1954

Dr. the Honourable S. RAMGOOLAM	...	Education.
Dr. the Honourable C. E. MILLIEN	...	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests
The Honourable R. SEENEEVASSEN	...	Health, Welfare Services and Prisons
The Honourable A. L. NAIRAC, C.B.E.	...	Labour.

APPENDIX V

(Part III—Chapter 5 : Reading list)

Mauritius Development and Welfare

LIST OF GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

No.	*Title*	*Date of Publication*
1.	Memorandum by Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, K.C.M.G., on the Development and Welfare Organisation	February 1944
2.	Report on Health Conditions in Mauritius by Dr. A. Rankine, M.C.	March 1944
3.	Co-operation in Mauritius. Report by W. K. H. Campbell, C.M.G.	April 1945
4.	Report on sanitary conditions affecting an outbreak of Poliomyelitis in Mauritius by Dr. Kenneth Martin and Mr. J. S. Stirton	July 1945
5.	Irrigation Proposals	August 1945
6.	Mauritius Hemp Industry	August 1945
7.	Report of the Industrial Development Advisory Committee	September 1945

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APPENDIX V—*continued*

No.	*Title*	*Date of Publication*
8.	Memorandum by Dr. The Honourable A. E. de Chazal on Proposed Scheme for Improvement and Expansion of the Medical and Health Services in Mauritius ...	May 1946
9.	Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan 1946–47 to 1955–56 including draft estimates for 1946–47	June 1946
10.	Memorandum on Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan Estimates ...	June 1946
11.	An Essay on Housing, Urban and Rural Planning with special reference to Mauritius by R. Lavoipierre	August 1946
12.	Revised Memorandum on Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan	October 1946
13.	Report on the Tea Industry of Mauritius by Captain E. G. B. de Mowbray, C.B.E., R.N. (Retd.)	September 1946
14.	Report on the Engineering aspect of the Sewage Disposal of Plaines Wilhems District and on the existing and proposed filtration plants connected with Domestic Water Supply	August 1947
15.	Report on the possibilities of Land Settlement in Mauritius	January 1948
16.	Reports on the Mauritius Fibre Industry by G. Winslow Lock, O.B.E. and P. W. Lees	May 1948
17.	Report on the Housing of Sugar Estate Workers by Prof. L. W. Thornton White, F.R.I.B.A., M.I.A.	December 1948
18.	Report of the Power Alcohol Committee ...	November 1949
19.	First, second and third report of the Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan Reviewing Committee	February 1950
20.	Fourth Report of the Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan Reviewing Committee	March 1950

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APPENDIX VI

(Part III—Chapter 5 : Reading list)

Leading Books on Mauritius

GENERAL

GENERALIA

UNIENVILLE, Marie Claude Antoine Marrier, baron d': Statistique de l'île Maurice et ses dépendances suivi d'une notice historique sur cette colonie et d'un Essai sur l'île de Madagascar. Paris, G. Barba, 1838. 3 vols.

A second edition was published in Port Louis, Typ. The Merchants and Planters Gazette, 1885–86, 3 vols, with phot. portr.

MACMILLAN, Allister, ed: Mauritius Illustrated Historical and descriptive, commercial and industrial facts, figures, and resources. London, W. H. and L. Collingridge, 1914. 456, with numerous illus. and maps.

WALTER, A.: Chronological table of events in Mauritius, 1507–1916. Appendix to the Mauritius Almanac, (1917). Mauritius, The Mauritius Stationery and Printing Cy. Ltd., 1917. 57p.

Fairly complete for the period of British occupation.

CHAROUX, Clément: Guide illustré de l'île Maurice. Port Louis. General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1936. 64, (32), IIp., illus.

The only tourist hand-book on Mauritius.

TOUSSAINT, Auguste: Port Louis, deux siècles d'histoire, (1735–1935). Avec une Préface de Pierre Crespin, Docteur-ès-Lettres, Lauréat de l'Académie Française. Port Louis, La Typographie Moderne, 1936. (IX), 516p., with 50 plates and 9 maps.

Published on the occasion of the celebration of the bi-centenary of the foundation of Port Louis under the patronage of the Bi-centenary Committee, the Historical Records Committee and the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius. A very full account of the development of Port Louis.

BARNWELL, P. J. and TOUSSAINT, A.: A short history of Mauritius. London, Longmans, Green & Co. 1949. 268p., illus.

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APPENDIX VI—*continued*

SORNAY, Pierre de: Isle de France—Ile Maurice. Port Louis. The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1950. XIV, 550, XXVIIp., illus., 28cm.

TOUSSAINT, Dr. Auguste: Select bibliography of Mauritius. Port Louis. The Standard Printing Establishment, 1951. 56p. 22cm.

ADMINISTRATIVE

ADMINISTRATION AND POLITICS

SWETTENHAM, Sir Frank Athestane, and others: Report of the Mauritius Royal Commission, 1909, presented to both Houses of Parliament by Command of His Majesty, June 1910 (Cd.5185). London, Eyre and Spottiswoode Ltd., 1910.60, XIIIp.

Minutes of Proceedings and Evidence printed separately (Cd. 5186), 581p. Documents received by the Commission also printed separately (Cd. 5187), 135p.

SWINDEN, J. B.: Local Government in Mauritius. Mauritius, Government Press, 1946. 25p.

Revision of the Constitution. Correspondence with the Secretary of State for the Colonies. Mauritius, Government Press, 1947. 18p.

Problems of Parliamentary Government in Colonies—A report by the Hansard Society.

SOCIAL

POPULATION

BEEJADHUR, Aunauth: Les Indiens à l'Ile Maurice. Port Louis, La Typographie Moderne, 1935. 126p.

THORNTON WHITE, L. W.: A master plan for Port Louis, Mauritius. South Africa, Cape Times Ltd., 1953. 89p., diag., plans.

UNIENVILLE, Noël d': L'Ile Menacée. The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 109p., map, illus.

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APPENDIX VI—*continued*

SLAVERY

TOUSSAINT, Auguste, *ed.*: Les missions d'Adrien d'Epinay (1830–1834). Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1946. XXXII, 216 p.

EDUCATION

WARD, W. E. F.: Report on Education in Mauritius. Mauritius, Government Press, 1952. 58p.

SELECT COMMITTEE: Report of the Select Committee on the Ward Report on Education. Mauritius, Government Press, 1953. 41p.

NICHOLS, A. E.: A report on secondary education in Mauritius. Mauritius, The Government Printer, 1949, 31, (2)p.

ECONOMICS

ECONOMICS

ELLIOT, Ivo D. and LOUGHNANE, N. G.: Financial situation of Mauritius. Report of a commission appointed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, December, 1931. Presented by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Parliament by Command of His Majesty, March, 1932. (Cmd. 4034). London, H.M. Stationery Office, 1932. 285p., map.

HOOPER, Charles Arthur, and others: Report on the Commission of enquiry into unrest on sugar estates in Mauritius, 1937. Mauritius, Government Press, 1938. XXIII, 253p.

MOODY, S., and others: Report of the Commission of Enquiry into the disturbances which occurred in the North of Mauritius in 1943. London, n.d. 81p., 1 map.

COODE and PARTNERS: Report on harbour facilities and suggested improvements at Port Louis, Mauritius. The Government Printer. 12p., 3 diags.

AGRICULTURE AND AGRONOMY

NORTH COOMBES, A: Tea in Mauritius, 1817–1944. Revue Agricole de l'île Maurice, vol. XXIII, No. 6, Nov.–Dec. 1944. p. 238–241.

An historical survey of the tea industry.

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APPENDIX VI—*continued*

NORTH COOMBES, G. A.: The fibre industry of Mauritius. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1951. 85. 20.7cm.

THE MAURITIUS CHAMBER OF AGRICULTURE

The President's report for the year 1953–54. The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., (87), XXVp., illus.

DUPAVILLON, F.: Le manguier à l'île Maurice. Esclapon Ltd., ii, 130p.

SUGARCANE

SORNAY, Pierre de: La canne à sucre à l'Ile Maurice. Paris, Challamel, 1920. VIII, 677p., illus., maps.

SORNAY, P. and SORNAY, A. de: Manuel de la canne à sucre à l'usage des charges de cours et des élèves des grandes écoles coloniales. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1952. 279p. 22.5cm.

A revised 2nd edition.

SCIENTIFIC

METEOROLOGY

HERCHENRODER, Marc: La pluie à l'île Maurice. Etude de soixante années d'observations. Préface de Maxime Kœnig. Maurice, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1935. 61p.

BOTANY

VAUGHAN, R. E. and WIEHE, P. O.: Studies on the vegetation of Mauritius.

HUBBARD, C. E. and VAUGHAN, R. E.: The grasses of Mauritius and Rodriguez. With a foreword by Sir Arthur W. Hill, Director, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. London, Waterlow & Sons, 1940. 128p., illus.

ZOOLOGY

STRICKLAND, H. E. and MELVILLE, H. E.: The Dodo and its kindred ; or the history, affinities and osteology of the Dodo, Solitaire and other extinct birds of the islands Mauritius, Rodriguez and Bourbon. London, Reeve, Benham and Reeve, 1848. 142p., 9 woodcuts, 16 plates.

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APPENDIX VI—*continued*

WHEELER, DR. J. F. G. and OMMANNEY, DR. F. D.: Report on the Mauritius—Seychelles fisheries survey, 1948–49. London, H.M.S.O. 1953. 145p.

GEOLOGY

SIMPSON, E. S. W.: The geology and mineral resources of Mauritius. London, A. Brown & Sons Ltd., 1951. 21p., plan, plates.

WALKER, F. and NICOLAYSEN, L. O.: The petrology of Mauritius. London, A. Brown & Sons Ltd., 43p., map, plates.

LITERARY

FOLK-LORE

BAISSAC, Charles: Etude sur le patois créole mauricien. Nancy, Berger-Levrault & Cie., 1880. (VI), LVII, 234p.

BAISSAC, Charles: Le Folk-Lore de l'île Maurice (Texte créole et traduction française) (t.XXVII de la collection. Les littératures populaires de toutes les nations). Paris, Maisonneuve & Ch. Leclerc, 1888. (VIII), XIX, 468p.

LITERATURE

JOUVANCOURT, Hugues de, *ed*: Poètes et prosateurs de l'Ile Maurice: Anthologie 1850–1951. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1952, 260p., illus., 27cm.

LITERARY PRODUCTIONS: French

BERNARDIN DE SAINT PIERRE, Jacques Henri: Paul et Virginie.

First published in 1788 and since then often reprinted. The finest French edition is that of Curmer, Paris, 1838. A number of English and American translations are available.

LITERARY PRODUCTIONS: English

MALIM, Michael: Island of the Swan. London, Longmans, Green & Co. 1952. 232p.

Imprint of Dr. F. D. OMMANNEY'S *The Shoals of Capricorn*. London, Spottiswoode, Ballantyne & Co. Ltd., 1952. 322p. illus.

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APPENDIX VI—*continued*

HISTORICAL

Early History

PITOT, Albert: T'Eylandt Mauritius. Esquisses historiques (1598–1710). Précédées d'une notice sur la découverte des Mascareignes et suivies d'une monographie du Dodo, des Solitaires de Rodrigue et de Bourbon et de l'Oiseau Bleu. Maurice, Coignet frères & Cie, 1905. 372p.

The only complete history of Mauritius during the Dutch period.

VISDELOU-GUIMBEAU, G. de: La découverte des îles Mascareignes. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1949. 65p., illus.

French History

PITOT, Albert: L'Ile de France. Esquisses historiques (1715–1810) Port Louis, E. Pezzani, 1899. III, 447p.

MAHE DE LABOURDONNAIS, B.F.: Mémoire des Iles de France et de Bourbon. Edité par Albert Lougnon et Auguste Toussaint. Paris, E. Leroux, 1937. IX, 204p.

The first complete edition of Labourdonnais' report to the French East India Company on his administration of Mauritius from 1735 to 1740, from the manuscript preserved in the Curepipe Carnegie Library, Mauritius.

TOUSSAINT, A. *ed.*: Early American Trade with Mauritius (Mauritius Archives Publications). Esclapon Ltd. 86p.

CHELIN, A.: Le théâtre à l'Ile Maurice: son origine et son développement. The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd. *(Société de l'Histoire de l'Ile Maurice,* no. 5). iii, 109p.

British History

GORDON, SIR Arthur Hamilton: Mauritius: Records of private and public life (1871–1874). Edinburgh, R. Clark, 1894. 2 vols.

Contains a full account of the events that led to the appointment of the Royal Commission to enquire into the treatment of Indian immigrants in Mauritius.

PITOT, Albert: L'Ile Maurice. Esquisses Historiques. 1810–23, 1823–28, 1828–33. 3 vols. Printed in 1910, 1912 and 1914.

DUCLOS, Adolphe: L'évolution nationale mauricienne. Paris, Jouve & Cie., 1924. 586p.

Contains a full account of the movement for the retrocession of Mauritius to France that took place in 1919–21.

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APPENDIX VI—*continued*

BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIRS

MAURE, André: Souvenirs d'un vieux colon de l'île Maurice renfermant tous les évènements qui lui sont arrivés depuis 1790 jusqu'en 1837, époque du bill d'émancipation, ce qui renferme une période de 46 ans, dédiés à Sir Walter Minto Farquhar, baronet, gouverneur et capitaine-général des îles Maurice et dépendances. La Rochelle, Typ. de Frédéric Boutet, 1840. (VI), 526p.

BIJOUX, J. O.: Rémy Ollier, sa vie et son oeuvre. Jugement de la postérité. Port Louis, Nouvelle Imprimerie Co-opérative, 1910. 452p., 1 plate.

Remy Ollier was prominent among those who struggled for the abolition of the colour bar in Mauritius in the first half of the 19th century.

CREPIN, Pierre: Mahé de Labourdonnais. Paris, E. Leroux, 1922. XXXVI, 488p., illus., maps.

Thesis submitted for the degree of *Docteur-ès-Lettres* of the University of Paris. Labourdonnais was one of the most successful French governors of Mauritius.

GEOGRAPHICAL

GEOGRAPHY

ARDILL, R. H.: A school geography of Mauritius. Mauritius, Government Press, 1945. 55p., maps and diagrams.

TRAVELS

LEGUAT, François: Voyage et aventures de François Leguat et de ses compagnons en deux îles désertes des Indes Orientales, avec la relation des choses les plus remarquables qu'ils ont observées dans l'Isle Maurice, à Batavia, au Cap de Bonne Espérance, dans l'isle de Ste. Hélène et en d'autres endroits de leur route. Londres, David Mortier, 1708. 2 vols. with plates and maps.

English edition with notes by Captain Pasfield Olivier for the Hakluyt Society. London, 1891, 2 vols.

PIKE, Nicholas: Sub-tropical rambles on the land of the Aphanapteryx. Personal experiences, adventures and wanderings in and around the island of Mauritius. London, Sampson Low, Marston and Searle, 1873. (II), XVIII, 512p., illus., 15 plates, maps.

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APPENDIX VII

List of publications printed in Mauritius in 1954 and deposited in the Archives Department under Ordinance No. 71 of 1952

GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS

(UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, THESE PUBLICATIONS ARE ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT PRINTER)

Archives Department

Annual report of the Archives Department for the year 1953.

27p., 24.9cm. R. 0.50 cs.

TOUSSAINT, A. *ed.*—Early American trade with Mauritius (Mauritius Archives Publications). Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd.

86p., 24.1cm. Rs. 10.00

Central Statistical Office

Year-book of statistics. Rose Hill, *processed.*

no. 7 1952.

,, 8 1953.

Civil Service Widows and Orphans' Pension Fund

Annual report of the Directors of the Civil Service Widows and Orphans' Pension Fund for the year 1953.

5p., 25.5cm. R. 0.25 cs.

Colonial Secretary's Office

Mauritius Executive Grades and General Clerical Service List. January 1954.

13p., 24.9cm.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

A collection of Proclamations and Government Notices published during the year 1953.

ii, 269p., 24.2cm. Rs. 7.00

Staff List, 1954.

iii, 52p., 24.9cm.

Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council of Mauritius during the year 1953.

v, 198p., 24.7cm. Rs. 6.00

Estimates, 1954–55, as passed by the Legislative Council on July 27, 1954.

(300)p., 33.5cm. Rs. 10.00

Report on Mauritius, 1953.

ii, 204., 1 map, 21.3cm Rs. 6.00

Agreement between the Government of Mauritius and the Government of the Union of Burma entered into on behalf of the Colony by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Government of the Union of Burma for the supply of rice during the years 1954, 1955, 1956 and 1957.

16p., 24.8cm.

Financial report for the year 1952–53.

(xxi), 81p., 33.5cm. Rs. 5.00

COODE AND PARTNERS—Report on harbour facilities and suggested improvements at Port Louis, Mauritius.

12p., 3 diag., 34.7cm.

HAIMES, W. J.—Report on the working of Whitley Councils.

29p., 24.8cm. R. 0.50 cs.

Co-operation Department

Annual report of the Department of Co-operation for the year ended 30th April, 1953.

32p., 24.8cm. R. 0.75 cs.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Council Office

Address by the Officer Administering the Government at the opening of the second session of the second Legislative Council of Mauritius on the 23rd February, 1954.

6p., 33.1cm.

Mauritius Legislative Council—Debates.

nos. 28–30 1953.

,, 1–32 1954.

,, 31–39 1953. Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd., 1954. Between R. 0.25 and R. 1.00 each

Mauritius Legislative Council—Sessional papers.

no. 1 1954 R. 1.50 cs.

Mauritius Legislative Council—Minutes of the proceedings of the Legislative Council and annexures: sixth session of first Legislative Council, 1953 and first session of second Legislative Council, 1953.

xv, (257)p., 33.8cm. Rs. 5.00

Customs Department

Annual report of the Customs and Excise Department for the year 1953.

146p., 2 diag., 33.9cm. Rs. 5.00

Cyclone and Drought Insurance Board

Report of the working of the Cyclone and Drought Insurance Board for the year ended December 31, 1953.

4p., 24.8cm. R. 0.25 cs.

Department of Agriculture

Summary of the regulations relating to the restrictions on the importation into Mauritius and the dependencies of plants, animals and animal products. Bulletin no. 88. 1953.

8p., 25.1cm. R. 0.25 cs.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Annual report of the Department of Agriculture, 1952. 1953.

53p., 24.8cm. R. 0.75 cs.

Annual report of the Department of Agriculture for the year 1953.

64p., 24.8cm. R. 1.00

MAURITIUS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE—Annual report of the Mauritius College of Agriculture, May 1952 to April 1953.

5p., 25cm. R. 0.25 cs.

MAURITIUS COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE—Annual report of the Mauritius College of Agriculture, May 1953 to April 1954.

5p., 25cm. R. 0.25 cs.

FISHERIES BRANCH—Annual report of the Fisheries Branch, 1953. *Processed.*

(42)f., 33.2cm.

WILLIAMS, J. R. and MAMET, J. R.—Insects and other invertebrates which feed upon sugarcane in Mauritius and Réunion, and their natural enemies. Bulletin no. 89.

19p., 25cm. R. 0.50 cs.

Dependencies

Annual report on Rodrigues for the year 1953.

29p., 2 diag., 24.7cm. R. 0.50 cs.

Development and Welfare

ARCHITECTURAL BRANCH—Riche-en-Eau house building experiment. Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd., 1953.

13p., 10 diag., 28cm.

Discharged Persons' Aid Committee

Annual report of the Discharged Persons' Aid Committee for the year 1953.

6p., 24.8cm. R. 0.25 cs.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

District Administration

Report on District Administration in Mauritius for 1953.

13p., 24.5cm. R. 0.25 cs.

The Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart bulletin. Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd., 1954.

no. 1 January–June.

Education Department

Annual report of the Education Department for the year ending 31st December, 1953.

iv, 91p., illus., 24.8cm. R. 1.25 cs.

Electricity and Telephones Department

Annual report of the Electricity and Telephones Department, 1952. *Processed,* 1953.

(20)f., 33.1cm.

Report on the working of the Electricity and Telelephones Department for the year 1953. *Processed,* 1954.

(13)f., 33.4cm.

Mauritius Telephone Directory. January 1954.

52p., 22.2cm.

Numerical register, Telephone Directory, 1954.

29p., 22.4cm.

Food Production Board

Eighth progress report, 1952–53.

26p., 1 diag., 25cm. R. 0.50 cs.

Government Printing Office

Annual report of the Government Printing Office, 1953.

9p., 24.7cm. R. 0.25 cs.

Granary Department

Annual report of the Granary Department for the the financial year 1952–53. *Processed,* 1953.

(7)f., 33.2cm.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Harbour and Quays Department

Annual report of the Harbour and Quays Department, 1953. *Processed.*

10f., 33.1cm.

Income Tax Department

Annual report on the Income Tax Department for the year 1952–53.

11p., 25.1cm. R. 0.25 cs.

Judicial Department

Annual report on the treatment of offenders in Mauritius for 1952, with which is incorporated the annual report of the Probation Service together with the annual reports of the Prisons Department, the Industrial School and the Borstal Institution.

69p., 24.9cm. R. 1.00

Annual report of the Judicial Department for the year 1953.

10p., 24.8cm. R. 0.25 cs.

HERCHENRODER, *Sir* F., *ed.*—The Mauritius Reports, 1953.

ii, 366p., 25cm. Rs. 30.00

Labour Department

Annual report of the Labour Department for 1952.

60p., 3 diag., 24.7cm. R. 1.00

REGISTRATION OF ASSOCIATIONS BRANCH—Annual report of the Registrar of Associations for the year 1953. *Processed.*

(17)f., 32.9cm.

Legal Department

Annual report on Legislation for 1953. *Processed.*

12f., 33.4cm.

Mauritius Agricultural Bank

Annual report of the Mauritius Agricultural Bank for the year 1953. Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd., 1954.

18p., 22.4cm.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Mauritius Institute

Annual report of the Mauritius Institute, 1952.
25p., 24.5cm. R. 0.50 cs.

The Mauritius Institute bulletin. Port Louis, The Standard Printing Establishment, 1954.
v. 3, pt. 4. Rs. 3.50 cs.

Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute

First annual report of the Executive Board, 1953. Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd., 1954.
7p., 26.5cm.

Bulletin (of the) Mauritius Sugar Industry Research Institute. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1954.

no. 1 (Ext. from *Revue Agricole,* xxxiii, 3 (1954) 111–15)

no. 2 (Ext. from *Revue Agricole,* xxxiii, 4 (1954) 160–74)

Observatory Department

Annual report of the Observatory Department for the year 1952.
13p., 1 diag., 24.7cm. R. 0.25 cs.

Annual report of the Observatory Department for the year 1953.
15p., 1 diag., 24.8cm. R. 0.25 cs.

Royal Alfred Observatory—Results of magnetical and meteorological observations.
v. 35, pts. 3–12.

Police Department

Mauritius Police Force—Operation order no. 1/54.
14p., 24.6cm.

Mauritius Police code.
212, viiip., 15.1cm.

Annual report on the Mauritius Police Force and on Crime and the Government Fire Services for the year 1953.
57p., 25.1cm. R. 0.75 cs.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Post Office Department

Annual report of the Posts and Telegraphs Department for the year 1953.

9p., 25cm. R. 0.25 cs.

SAVINGS BANK BRANCH—Annual report of the Post Office Savings Bank for the financial year 1952–53.

8p., 25cm. R. 0.25 cs.

Public Assistance Department

Annual report of the Public Assistance Department for the year 1951. *Processed,* 1953.

(24)f., 35.1cm.

Annual report of the Public Assistance Department, 1952. *Processed.*

(56) f., 35.2cm.

Annual report of the Public Assistance Department, 1953. *Processed.*

(34)f., 33.3cm.

Public Relations Office

Annual report on the Public Relations Office, Mauritius, for the year 1952.

8p., 24.9cm. R. 0.25 cs.

Public Works Department

Annual report of the Public Works and Surveys Department for the financial year 1952–53. *Processed.*

(24)f., 33.2cm.

Railway Department

Mauritius Government Railways—Financial instructions. Part I.

65p., 24.8cm.

Registrar General's Department

Report on the working of the Registrar General's Department for the year 1953. *Processed,*

(39)f., 35.1cm,

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Social Welfare Department

Social Welfare bulletin. Port Louis, The Colonial Printing, 1954.

v.1, nos. 1–4.

Port Louis, Imprimerie Commerciale, 1954.

v.1, no. 5.

Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee

Annual report, 1952. Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd., 1954.

47p., 24cm.

Tobacco Board

Report on the operations of the Tobacco Board and the Tobacco Warehouse, year ended 30th June, 1954. Port Louis, Nouvelle Imprimerie Coopérative, 1954.

29p., 21.1cm.

Transport Control Board

Annual report on the Transport Control Board for the year 1953.

4p., 24.7cm. R. 0.25 cs.

PRIVATE PUBLICATIONS

Antoine, Robert, *ed.*

Association of former agricultural students, 1927–1952. Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd.

iii, 62p., illus., 24.8cm.

Barat, H.

Problèmes sanitaires de la canne à sucre à Madagascar et en Australie. (Ext. from *Revue Agricole,* xxxiii, 5 (1954), 207–18). Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

(12)p., 24.7cm.

Blackburn, J. A.

Test papers: French. Port Louis, Almadina Press.

44p., 22cm. Rs. 2.00

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

British Red Cross Society (Mauritius Branch)

Report for the year 1953. Port Louis, The Standard Printing Establishment.

24p., 23.8cm.

Chazal, Malcolm de

L'espace ou Satan. Port Louis, The Standard Printing Establishment.

35p., 17.2cm.

Les dieux ou les consciences-univers. Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd.

ii, 155p., 19.1cm. Rs. 10.00

Les deux infinis. Port Louis, Almadina Press.

171p., 16.2cm. Rs. 8.00

Les désamorantes. Le concile des poètes. Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd.

80p., 18.8cm.

Chelin, Antoine

Le théâtre à l'Ile Maurice: son origine et son développement. Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd. *(Société de l'Histoire de l'Ile Maurice,* no. 5).

iii, 109p., 21.4cm. Rs. 6.00

Donat, *Revd.* L. V. M.

St. Paul's, Plaine Verte. A happy Christmas. Port Louis, The Modern Printing.

9p., 22.9cm.

Dupavillon, F.

Le manguier à l'Ile Maurice. Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd.

ii, 130p., 19.2cm. Rs. 10.00

Fabien, Jean Paul

Au coeur de la nuit. Port Louis, The Colonial Printing.

42p., 17.1cm.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Guérin, René

Faune ornithologique ancienne et actuelle des îles Mascareignes, Seychelles, Comores et des îles avoisinantes. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

Le zostérops de Kirk.
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Le sansonnet éteint de Rodrigue.
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Le zostérops d'Anjouan.
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Le zostérops de l'île Glorieuse.
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Le zostérops de la Grande Comore.
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Le drongo de la Grande Comore.
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Le martin.
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Le corbeau de Madagascar.
4p.

Le corbeau de l'Inde.
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Le colibri de la Grande Comore.
4p.

Le colibri de Mayotte.
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Le foudi d'Anjouan.
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Le colibri des Seychelles.
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Le colibri d'Anjouan.
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Le foudi de la Grande Comore.
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La spermeste à capuchon.
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Le colibri d'Angazija.
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Le foudi de Mayotte.
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Le bruant de l'île Bourbon.
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Le bengali moucheté.
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Le moutardier ou serin du Cap.
3p.
La veuve dominicaine.
4p.

Guibert, Eda, *ed.*
Petit catéchisme en patois créole. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.
vi, 22p., 14.1cm.

J.E.C.F. (Jeunesse Etudiante Catholique Féminine), *ed.*
Envol. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.
20p., 18.4cm.

Loreto Convent of Curepipe, *ed.*
Souvenir de Première Communion. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.
11p., 11cm.

Loreto Convent of Rose Hill, *ed.*
Summary of discourses. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.
11p., 17.4cm.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Loreto Convent of Saint Pierre, *ed.*

Le petit catéchisme. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

8p., 15.3cm.

Maingard, *Dr.* Jocelyn

La transfusion sanguine—Causeries radio-diffusées. Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd.

59., illus., 23.7cm. Rs. 2.00

Malone, J. S.

The Oxford English course for Mauritius. Book III. Port Louis, The Government Printer.

35p., 18.4cm.

Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture, *ed.*

Chambre d'Agriculture de l'Ile Maurice—Rapport du président sur l'exercice 1953–54. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

(88), xxvp., illus., 31.5cm. Rs. 10.00

The president's report for the year 1953–54. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

(87), xxvp., illus., 31.9cm. Rs. 10.00

Mauritius Chamber of Commerce, *ed.*

Annual report of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce for the year 1953–54. Port Louis, The Standard Printing Establishment.

(9)p., 31.2cm.

Mauritius Commercial Bank, *ed.*

Deed of partnership of the Mauritius Commercial Bank. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

(45)p., 26.9cm.

Mauritius Maternity and Child Welfare Society, *ed.*

Annual reports and accounts of the Mauritius Maternity and Child Welfare Society for the period July 1st, 1953 to June 30th, 1954. Port Louis, The Standard Printing Establishment.

14p., 25cm.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Mauritius Sailor's Home Society, *ed.*

Mauritius Sailors' Home Society—Honorary Secretary's annual report and cash statement, 1953–54. Port Louis, Nouvelle Imprimerie Coopérative.

8p., 24.4cm.

Mauritius Travel and Tourist Bureau Ltd, *ed.*

Calling at Mauritius. Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd.

(21)p., 21.2cm.

Escale à l'Ile Maurice. Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd.

(20)p., 21.2cm.

Midland Transport Company Limited, *ed.*

Memorandum and articles of Association of Midland Transport Company Limited. Port Louis, Almadinah Press.

28p., 26cm.

Mutualité Mauricienne, La, *ed.*

Rapport du président, 1953–1954. Port Louis, The Standard Printing Establishment.

13p., 23.4cm.

Orian, G.

Fiji disease of Sugar Cane in Madagascar, (Ext. from *Revue Agricole,* xxxiii, 5 (1954), 210–25). Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

(7)p., illus., 24.7cm.

Public Works Department Welfare Society, *ed.*

Rules of the Public Works Department Welfare Society. Port Louis, Modern Printing.

(19)p., 17.4cm. R. 0.50 cs.

Ravat, Yves

En forêt. Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd.

66p., 19.2cm. Rs. 3.00

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius, *ed.*

Sessions 1951–1952. Proceedings. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

v.1, pt. 3.

Société de L'Histoire de L'Ile Maurice, *ed.*

Procès-verbaux des assemblées générales tenues du 16 mars 1948 au 19 juin 1950. Curepipe, *processed,* 1953.

22p., 26.5cm.

Société de Secours Mutuels de Saint Pierre, *ed.*

Nouveaux statuts de la Société de Secours Mutuels de Saint Pierre. Port Louis, The Modern Printing.

20p., 17.7cm.

Staub, Serge

La filtrabilité des sucres roux de Maurice. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1953.

12p., 6 diag., 24.8cm.

Thamige Parobagara Sangum Benevolent Society, *ed.*

Statuts de la Société " Thamige Parobagara Sangum " Benevolent Society, Vacoas. Port Louis, Modern Printing.

11p., 18.8cm. R. 0.30 cs.

Unienville, Noël d'

L'île menacée. Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.

109p., 1 map, illus., 27.1cm. Rs. 25.00

PERIODICALS

Amaranth, The

Port Louis, Almadinah Press.

December 1953.

September.

Aryoday

Port Louis, Shradhanand Printing Establishment.

January—December, R. 0.50 p.m.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Breeder's news, The
Port Louis, The Standard Printing Establishment.
November—December 1953.
January—December R. 1.00 each

Bulletin du G.P.U.M. (Groupement pour l'Unité Mauricienne)
Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.
April—November (First issue, April).

Cette Semaine
Port Louis, The Standard Printing Establisment.
November—December (First issue, November). R. 0.25 each

Chinese Students' Association Magazine, The
Port Louis, Popular Printing.
September. R. 0.50 cs.

Church magazine
Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.
December 1953. R. 0.20 each
January—December.

Diocesan quarterly magazine, The
Port Louis, The Standard Printing Establisment.
January—October Rs. 2.00 p.a.

Documentation politique et économique
Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.
March—October (First issue, March).

Epée, L'
Port Louis, Joseph Coralie.
January—December. R. 0.05 each

Essor, L'
Port Louis, Esclapon Ltd.
November—December 1953.
January—October. Rs. 2.50 each

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Flambeau, Le

Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd.
March. R. 1.00

J.O. et Tribune ouvrière

Port Louis, Imprimerie Coopérative Père Laval Ltée.
January—December R. 1.20 p.a.

Légionnaires

Port Louis, The Standard Printing Establishment.
January—September. R. 0.25 each

Libca

Port Louis, Imprimerie Co-opérative Père Laval Ltée.
November—December 1953.
January—April (First issue, November 1953).

Maurice sports

Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd.
February—May. R. 0.50 each

Mauritius Bulletin

Rose Hill, *processed.*
November—December 1951.
February—December 1952.
February—December 1953.
February—December. (First issue, November 1951).

Mauritius Times

Port Louis, Nalanda Press Service.
August—December. (First issue, August). R. 0.05 each

Nous

Port Louis, Nouvelle Imprimerie Co-opérative.
December 1953.

Progrès islamique, Le

Rose Hill, Shiva Mayam Printing Press.
January—December. R. 0.10 each

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

Renouveau
Port Louis, Imprimerie Co-opérative Père Laval Ltée.
January—December.

Revue agricole de l'Ile Maurice, La
Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.
November—December 1953.
January—October. Rs. 15.00 p.a.

Revue artistique, La
Port Louis, The Regent Press and Stationery.
December 1953.
January—August. Rs. 5.00 each

Revue de Marie
Port Louis, The Standard Printing Establishment.
January—December. R. 0.50 each

Revue rétrospective de l'Ile Maurice, La
Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.
May—September 1953. Rs. 5.00 each

Spiritus
Port Louis, The Standard Printing Establishment.
Hilary and Trinity terms. R. 0.75 cs.

Vartman
Port Louis, Jyoti Press.
January—June. (First issue, January). R. 0.10 each

Vie catholique, La
Port Louis, Imprimerie Co-opérative Père Laval
January—December. R. 0.10 each

Voix de l'Islam, La
Rose Hill Shiva Mayam Printing.
January—December. R. 0.10 each

Yangtse
Port Louis, Mee Mee Printing
June. (First issue). R. 0.75 cs.

Zamana
Port Louis, B. Buctowarsingh.
January—December.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

NEWSPAPERS

(ISSUED MORE THAN ONCE A WEEK)

Advance
Port Louis, The Mauritius Free Press Service Cy. Ltd.
January—December.

Après-midi, L'
Port Louis, The Chinese Daily News.
January—August.

Cernéen, Le
Port Louis, La Presse Mauricienne Ltée.
January—December.

China times
Port Louis, Faliang Press Ltd.
January—December.

Chinese commercial paper, The
Port Louis, Yoo Foo.
January—December.

Chinese daily news, The
Port Louis, Li Pak U.
January—December.

Government gazette of the Colony of Mauritius, The
Port Louis, The Government Printer.
January—December.

Janata
Port Louis, The Mauritius Free Press Service Cy. Ltd.
January—December.

Latest news
Rose Hill, Ww. W. J. Hay.
January—December.

Mauricien, Le
Port Louis, Raoul Rivet.
January—December.

New era, The
Port Louis, *processed.*
January—December.

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APPENDIX VII—*continued*

YEAR BOOKS

Almanach biblique

Port Louis, The Regent Press and Stationery.
1954.

Annuaire touristique et commercial de l'Ile Maurice

Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd.
1954.

Rs. 6.00

Calendrier du Diocèse de Port Louis

Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.
1954.

Rs. 5.00

Chronique du turf, La

Port Louis, The General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd.
1953.

Mauritius Police magazine, The

Port Louis, The Mauritius Printing Cy. Ltd.
1954.

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Réunion (Fr.)
Mauritius (Br.)
Rodrigues
MAURITIUS
Scale: Four Miles to the Inch. (R.F. 1/253,440)
- Legend -
Roads
Railways
District Boundaries
Sugar Cane Factories
Lighthouses
20°
Trou aux Biches
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Port Louis Harbour
Pte aux Sables
Pte aux Cerfs
Petite Rivière Bay
La Ferme Rocs
Flic en Flac
Walmar
Tamarin Bay
Gde Riv. Noire Bay
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Benitiers Island
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Curepipe
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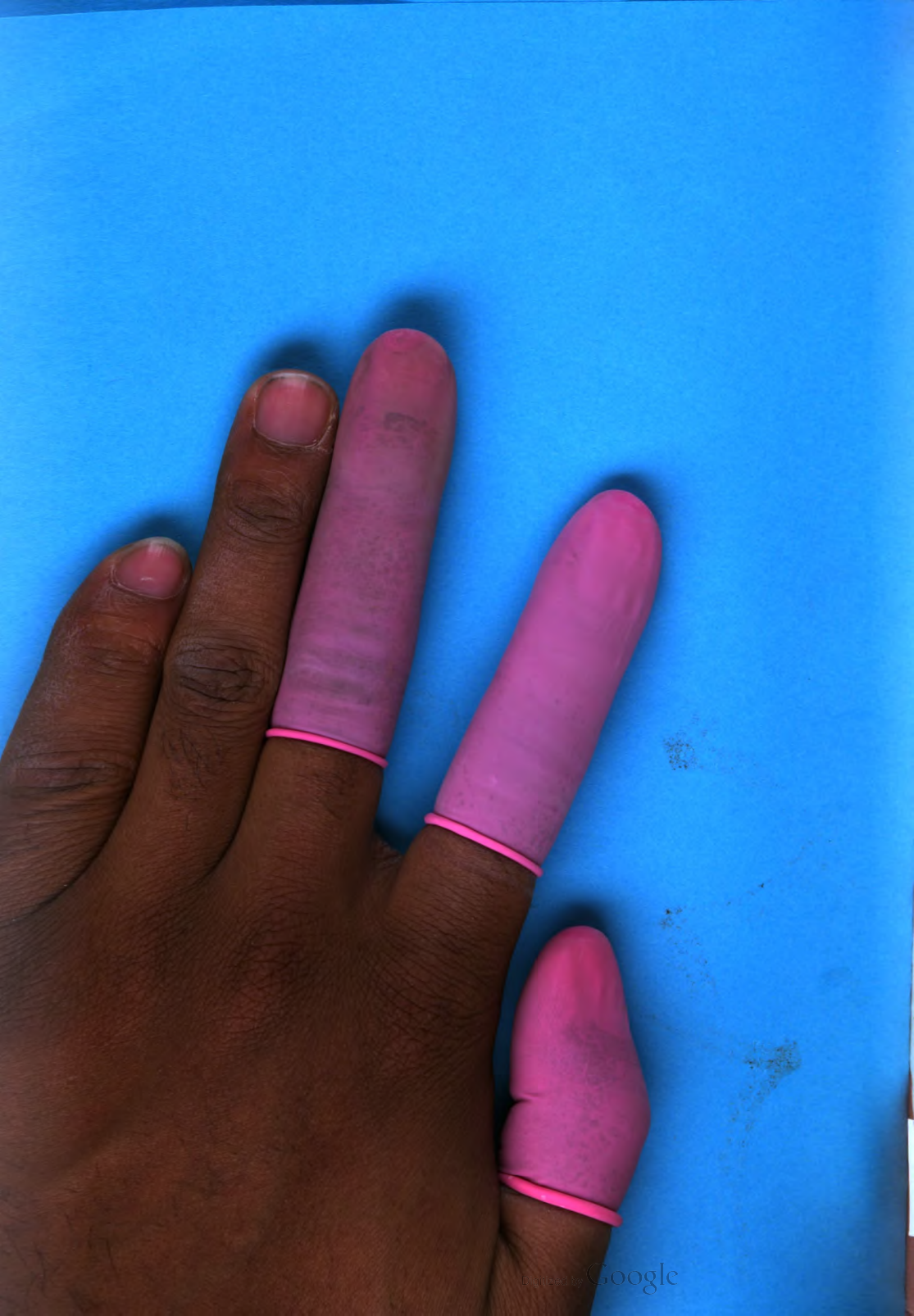
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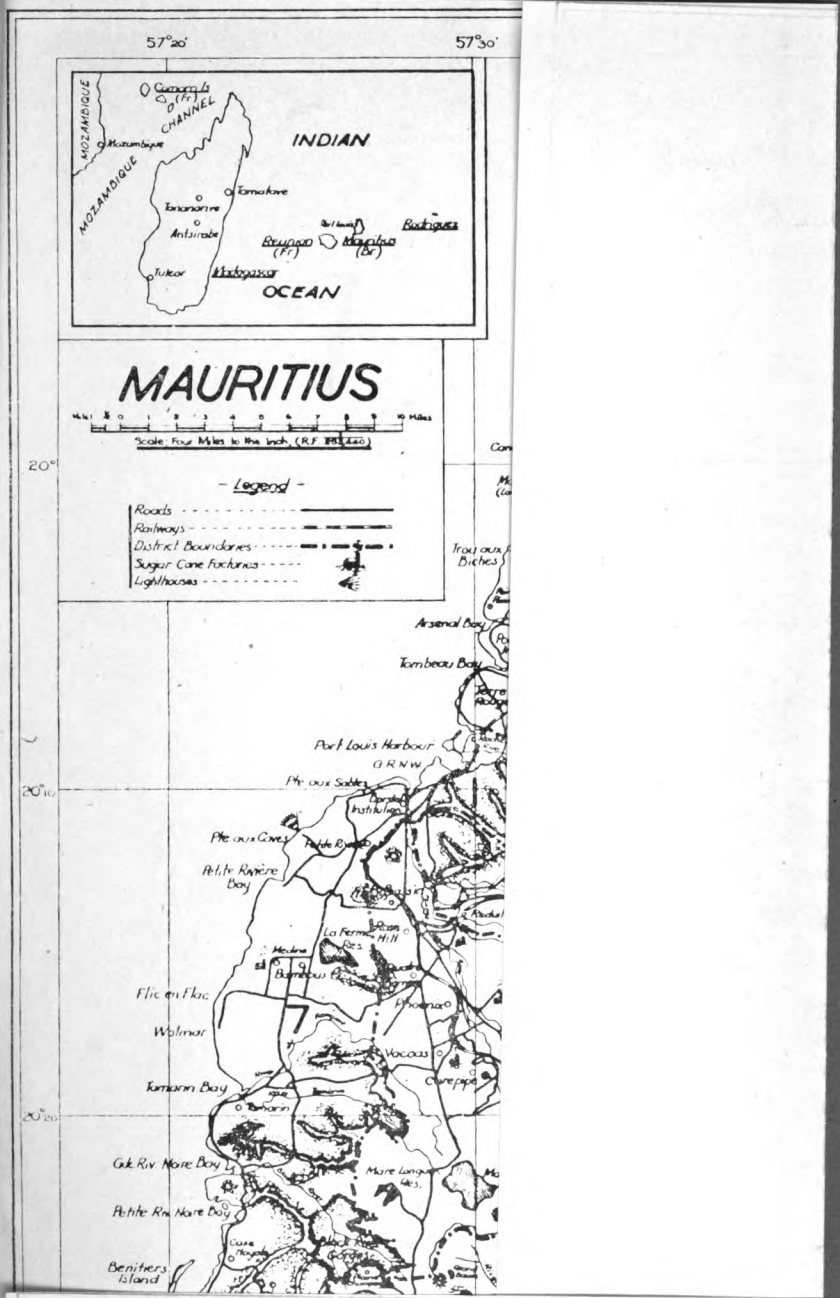
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Rodrigues
MAURITIUS
Scale: Four Miles to the Inch. (R.F. 1/253,440)
- Legend -
Roads
Railways
District Boundaries
Sugar Cane Factories
Lighthouses
20°
20°10'
20°20'
Arsenal Bay
Tombeau Bay
Port Louis Harbour
G.R.N.W.
Pte aux Sables
Pte aux Cavés
Petite Rivière Bay
Flic en Flac
Wolmar
Tamarin Bay
Grand Riv. Moire Bay
Petite Riv. Moire Bay
Benitiers Island
Vacoas
Curepipe

'LE RÉDUIT,' THE GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE, WAS BUILT BY THE FRENCH GOVERNOR DAVID IN THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Gt. Brit. Colonial office.

Report

on

Mauritius

1955

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1957

(*Printed in Mauritius*)

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PART I

Review of the Year 1955

POLITICAL

Following the discussions conducted with the representatives of the main shades of political opinion throughout the greater part of 1954, the views of the Governor on constitutional development were transmitted to the Secretary of State early in January in a despatch which was subsequently published in Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1956. The Secretary of State later suggested that leading representatives of the various schools of thought should accompany the Governor to London to discuss the Governor's proposals. Accordingly, a political delegation left Mauritius in July. Its members included Dr. the Honourable S. Ramgoolam, the Honourable R. Seeneevassen, the Honourable J. G. Forget and the Honourable G. Rozemont (Mauritius Labour Party), the Honourable Jules Kœnig and the Honourable A. R. Mohamed (*Parti Mauricien*), and two Nominated Members of the Legislative Council, the Honourable Guy Sauzier and Dr. the Honourable L. A. Célestin. The discussions in London ended on the 22nd July. It was then announced that the Secretary of State would give further consideration to the Governor's proposals in the light of these discussions and would convey to the Governor the decision of Her Majesty's Government. Agreement was reached on a number of proposals to improve and strengthen the machinery of Government, on the need for a change in the status and powers of the Liaison Officers, and on the appointment of a Speaker for the Legislative Council from outside the Island. There remained differences between the Mauritian representatives on certain other proposals, including an increase in the membership of the Executive and the Legislative Councils, whether the members of the Executive Council charged with the administration of departments of Government should be styled " Members " or " Ministers ", and on the introduction of universal adult suffrage. The primary outstanding issue was the extent to which safeguards were required to ensure the adequate representation of communities or minority groups in the legislature if universal adult suffrage were introduced.

A Commission was appointed, under the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Ordinance, to enquire into the conduct of local government elections in Mauritius with particular reference

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to points made in a debate in the Legislative Council, in 1954, regarding defects in the manner of conducting municipal elections in Port Louis. The Commission, under the chairmanship of Mr. Bryan Keith-Lucas, of Nuffield College, Oxford, began its work towards the end of the year.

Disorderly incidents in the villages of Chemin Grenier and Surinam, in March, were the subject of an administrative enquiry by a magistrate. The magistrate found that the trouble was caused by ill-feeling between the Hindu and Moslem communities in the locality; his report was published as Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1955.

Economic and Financial

The Colony enjoyed another year of prosperity, assisted by freedom from cyclones for the tenth year in succession.

The 1955 sugar crop established a new record of 533,235 metric tons as compared with the previous record of 512,076 tons in 1953. In December it was announced in London that the negotiated price for sugar bought within the Commonwealth under the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement would be unchanged for 1956 at £40/15/- a long ton.

Tea production rose to 1,340,026 lbs of black tea and 1,822 lbs of green tea as compared with 1,142,987 and 1,643 lbs respectively in 1954. Exports amounted to 377,467 lbs as against 249,673 lbs in 1954.

The closing of the Colony's accounts for 1954–55 showed a surplus of Rs 6·7 millions instead of the deficit of half a million rupees forecast in the Estimates. This difference was attributable to an increase in current receipts from Rs 105 millions to Rs 109 millions, which was due mainly to a greater yield from direct taxes, especially income tax, to a decrease in current expenditure and to deferred works of a capital nature which could not be undertaken during the financial year.

The Development (General Purposes) Loan Ordinance (No. 51 of 1953) provides for the raising of loan funds, not exceeding in the whole Rs 50 millions, for financing development works.

A loan of Rs 11,540,500 (i.e. £365,547) was raised locally in 1954–55. A further loan of £2,090,000 at 4¾ per cent was raised in London on the 27th November, 1955, at an issue price of £97 per cent. The loan is redeemable in 1972–77.

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The Fiscal Committee, appointed in December, 1954, submitted its report (published as Sessional Paper No. 5 of 1955) in May. The main recommendations include, as regards direct taxation, a measure of income tax relief for the small and medium income groups, the removal of certain conspicuous disincentives to the investment in the Colony of both local and overseas capital, encouragement for the re-investment of profits, and substantial relief in the form of initial and annual allowances, as well as an investment allowance designed to encourage the development of primary production and to stimulate investment in industrial buildings, plant and machinery. As regards indirect taxation the Committee proposed changes in customs and excise duties designed as far as possible to avoid an increase in the cost of living of the lower income groups and to distribute more evenly the incidence of such taxation.

The Report was debated by the Legislative Council and an amended motion was accepted on the 2nd December, agreeing that the Government should in general adopt the Report but that in framing detailed proposals for fiscal changes the Government should accept the poposals of the Income Tax Commissioner as regards the rates for individuals, that as far as possible any additional revenue derived from increases in customs and excise duties should be applied to meeting expenditure on development, including the expansion of social services, and that manufacturing, trading and professional licences should be examined by an *ad hoc* Committee before proposals for modifying fees were formulated.

The Committee on Population appointed in 1953 submitted its report (published as Sessional Paper No. 4 of 1955) in February. The main recommendations concerned the study of ways and means of raising productivity in the shortest possible time, the provision of advice and practical aid to the population in family planning methods, the formulation and implementation of a programme of emigration, and measures to provide more houses at lower cost.

COMMUNICATIONS

The rationalisation of passenger transport continued during the year. The development of the bus industry continued to make good progress and the railway passenger services on the northern line and the Curepipe—Mahebourg line were closed. At the end of the year the only railway passenger service still in operation was that between Port Louis and Curepipe.

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At the request of the Government one of the partners in the firm of Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners (Africa), consulting engineers, visited Mauritius in January—February to examine the existing road system and advise on such new construction as might be necessary to adapt the road system to the demands likely to be made on it. The consultants' " Appraisal of the Road Problem in Mauritius " was received in August and laid on the table of the Legislative Council.

The question of improving harbour facilities in Port Louis was still under consideration at the end of the year.

Social Services

Progress continued to be made with the expansion of facilities for primary education, including the opening of three primary schools in the Lesser Dependencies (Agaléga, Péros Banhos and Salomon Island), and the extension of the Teachers' Training College. The development of Queen Elizabeth College, the Government secondary school for girls, continued. The Harlow Report on Technical Education in Mauritius was published in September and a motion asking the Government to take the initial steps towards the provision of facilities for technical education, by recruiting a suitably qualified person for appointment as Principal of a Technical School or Institute, was debated and accepted by the Legislative Council on the 20th December.

The general health of the population continued to improve. There was a further fall in the general death rate from 29.5 per thousand in 1946 to 12.9 in 1955. The infant and maternal mortality rates, the incidence of enteric fever and the number of deaths caused by the group of infective and parasitic diseases continued to decline. The BCG vaccination campaign, which began in 1951, was continued.

A rural dispensary was completed as well as a number of quarters for sanitary staff, whilst the construction of another dispensary, a health centre and more staff quarters was put in hand. A Nurses' Home for the residential training of nurses and an Orthopaedic Centre, a major institution for the care and treatment of victims of poliomyelitis and cripples, had reached the final stages of construction. A new social welfare centre, the eleventh in a scheme which provides for fifteen such centres for the benefit of the rural areas, was put in hand by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee. Child, maternity and midwifery services have been expanded and improved at these centres,

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Further progress has been made on the development and extension of the Island's domestic water supplies. New service reservoirs have been built and trunk and service mains and distribution pipes laid to extend the Mare-aux-Vacoas and the Piton du Milieu water supplies. Additional filters have also been installed. When the programme of work now in progress has been completed, the greater part of the Island will be provided with an adequate supply of clear water.

Plans to increase the present production of electricity and to extend its distribution throughout the Island have been prepared. The St. Louis Power Station on the outskirts of Port Louis was opened by the Governor on the 26th October: this station is designed to accommodate four 1,750 Kw diesel generating sets, the first of which was running in December, 1954. Preliminary work began on a hydro-electric project at *Eau Bleue* which is expected to yield an initial annual output of 5 million KWH with possibilities of extension to 14 million units.

The housing situation remained difficult, particularly in relation to the lower income groups. A number of low-cost housing schemes are being undertaken by the Municipality of Port Louis, and by the three Town Councils, with funds provided on loan by the Government. The Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee has extended its programme of rural housing to other districts of the Island and the construction of housing estates has been started at Montagne Longue, New Grove, Saint Pierre, Bois Chéri and Montagne Blanche. Government loans to two co-operative building societies were approved.

Dependencies

The Governor, travelling in the frigate H.M.S. *Loch Killisport,* visited Rodrigues, Agalega, St. Brandon, Diego Garcia, Salomon Island and Peros Banhos in September–October.

The Public Service

A Public Service Commission was appointed for the first time in May, 1955, under the chairmanship of Mr. N. A. C. Weir, C.M.G., O.B.E., E.D. The other members of the Commission are Mr. J. G. Espitalier-Noël, a former judge of the Supreme Court of Mauritius, Mr. G. Luchman, M.B.E., formerly an Inspector of Schools, and Mr. A. Loumeau, a retired member of the General

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Clerical Service. The Commission's function is to advise the Governor on appointments, promotions, disciplinary action and other matters concerning the public service which are referred to it in accordance with the provisions of the Public Service Commission Ordinance (No. 53 of 1953, which came into force on the 11th May, 1955).

HONOURS

Her Majesty The Queen was graciously pleased to approve the following appointments on the occasion of the New Year and on Her Birthday:—

NEW YEAR

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

JOHN SHAW RENNIE, Deputy Colonial Secretary.

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

JOSEPH CLÉMENT DALAIS, Chairman Minimum Wage Boards and Probation Hostel Committee, and Member Arbitration Court and Probation Committees.

LOUIS JOSEPH CLAUDE MAINGARD, Assistant Secretary, Secretariat.

British Empire Medal (Civil)

RAMAYADE KHEDUN, Permanent Way Sirdar, Mauritius Government Railways.

BIRTHDAY

Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

HERBERT JOHN HINCHEY, Financial Secretary.

Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

ROBERT HENRY ARDILL, Deputy Director of Education.

Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

JEAN RENÉ GABRIEL ORIAN, Plant Pathologist, Department of Agriculture.

Imperial Service Order

PIERRE CANTIN, General Manager of Railways.

British Empire Medal

SOOADICK AMEER MAUDARBACCUS, Sub-Inspector of Police.

Colonial Police Medal (For Meritorious Service)

CHINAYA NAIDOO PURSEERAMEN, Sub-Inspector of Police,

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Visitors

During the year, the Colony received the visit of the following distinguished visitors:—

Vice-Admiral C. F. W. Norris, C.B., D.S.O. (now Vice-Admiral Sir C. F. W. Norris K.B.), Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station.

Lieutenant-General G. W. Lathbury, C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., Commander-in Chief, East Africa.

Mr. Fenner Brockway, M.P.

Sir Christopher Cox, Educational Adviser to the Secretary of State.

Dr. F. J. Harlow, M.B.E., Assistant Educational Adviser (Technical Education) to the Secretary of State.

Mr. E. P. Keely, C.B.E., of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, London.

Professor A. W. Woodruff, F.R.C.P., Ph.D., of the World Health Organisation.

Dr. H. G. Baity, Director of the Division of Environmental Sanitation, World Health Organisation, Geneva.

Dr. Pierre Clément, Public Health Administrator, of the Regional Office for Africa, World Health Organization, Brazzaville.

Visiting Ships

In addition to the visit by H.M.S. *Gambia*, flying the flag of the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies, Mauritius was visited by H.M.S. *Birmingham* in May and by H.M. Submarine *Acheron* in August.

The French training ship *Jeanne d'Arc* and her escort *La Grandière* visited the Colony in January and *La Gazelle* in September.

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PART II

Chapter I: Population

A Census of the population, which was taken during the night of the 28th—29th June, 1952, gave the following results:

Males ...	...	252,032
Females	...	249,383
TOTAL	...	501,415

The population of Mauritius as at the 31st December, 1955, was estimated therefrom at 560,000, exclusive of the members of the Royal Pioneer Corps who were in military employment overseas.

The natural increase, that is the excess of births over deaths, in 1955, was 15,882, a number which is nearly 6 times the corresponding average for the five prewar years (1935–39).

Civilian departures from the Colony exceeded the arrivals by 138.

The average density of the population for the whole island was 763 per square mile (calculated on the mid-year population).

BIRTHS

(a) The number of live births during the year 1955 was 22,970, an increase of 1,044 on the number for 1954. It represented an increase of 2,253 on the yearly average number of births for the decennial period ending with 1954.

Males	*Females*	*Total*	*Male births per 1,000 female births*
11,697	11,273	22,970	1.038

The following are the birth rates (per 1,000 of the mid-year population) for the last 5 years:

1951	*1952*	*1953*	*1954*	*1955*
47·5	48·1	46·3	41·3	41·8

(b) Still-births, which are not included as either births or deaths, numbered 1,459 (830 males and 629 females), corresponding to a rate of 6·4 per hundred live births. During the year 1954, there were 1,358 still-births, corresponding to a rate of 6·2.

DEATHS

Deaths registered in Mauritius numbered 7,088 corresponding to a rate of 12·9 per 1,000 of the population. The month of maximum mortality was January with 765 deaths. In 1954 the highest figure recorded was 867 in October, as against 844 in August 1953.

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Number of deaths in 1955 ...	3,640	3,448	7,088
Rate per 1,000 of population	13·1	12·7	12·9

The average death rate for the period 1946–55 was 17·9.

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Infantile Mortality

The number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age during 1955 was 1,543 as against 1,778 in 1954. This number was considerably lower than in the quinquennial period 1944–48.

The following table shows the infantile mortality rate (i.e. the number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 live births):—

Year	*Rate*
1944–1948 (average) ...	154·9
1951 ...	83·5
1952 ...	80·8
1953 ...	93·5
1954 ...	81·1
1955 ...	67·2

Marriages

The following table gives the number of marriages for the last 5 years:

Year	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Number of marriages	3,080	4,094	3,473	3,092	2,797

Movement of the Civil Population*

	Males	*Females*	*Total*
Arrivals ...	4,558	2,658	7,216
Departures...	4,722	2,632	7,354

*Includes

(*a*) the very small figure of engaged or discharged seamen ;

(*b*) emigrants and immigrants to and from the dependencies, but does not include movements of troops and locally enlisted servicemen.

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Chapter 2: Occupation, Wages and Labour Organisations

EMPLOYMENT

The distribution of workers in the various industries of the Colony in 1955 is given in the table below.

	Men	*Women*	*Juveniles*	*Total*
(*a*) *Sugar Industry*	38,548	12,949	2,730	54,227
(*b*) *Public Services*—				
Government Departments ...	8,788	195	110	9,093
Town Councils	403	56	28	487
(*c*) *Other Industries*—				
Aloe Fibre...	463	828	87	1,378
Aerated Water Works	126	21	4	151
Bakeries	485	—	—	485
Building Contractors	1,269	—	22	1,291
Cigarette Manufactories	78	145	3	226
Compounders	78	—	—	78
Distilleries	86	1	2	89
Docks	1,240	13	15	1,268
Electricity	420	—	5	425
Jewellery	290	—	88	378
Lime Kilns	347	234	19	600
Match Manufactories	9	19	4	32
Oil Industry	38	—	—	38
Printing Establishments... ...	250	—	62	312
Sack Factory	525	150	6	681
Salt Pans	74	49	5	128
Saw Mills	190	—	—	190
Shoe-making	238	—	189	427
Stevedoring Companies	770	—	—	770
Sugar Mechanical Pool	62	—	1	63
Tanneries	34	3	—	37
Tea Industry	527	454	417	1,398
Tobacco	686	626	292	1,604
Wine Industries	198	185	1	384
Workshops (Motor)	535	—	213	748
Workshops (Other)	613	3	55	671
Bus Coach Builders	99	—	54	153
	57,469	15,931	4,412	77,812

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It is estimated, however, that the total number of gainfully occupied persons was 164,000. The difference between the estimated total number and the total shown in the above table comprises types of workers such as self-employed craftsmen, domestic servants, unskilled journeymen, etc., not included in the classification.

The Sugar Industry, the main industry of the Island, employed on an average 54,227 workers in 1955. The seasonal fluctuation in this industry between the average inter-harvest employment and average harvest employment amounted to 18 per cent as shown by the following figures:

	During inter-crop		*During crop*	
Artizans and drivers ...		4,136		4,316
Labourers:—				
Males	30,272		38,372	
Females	11,860		14,038	
Juveniles	2,600		285	
		44,732		55,269
		48,868		59,585

The secondary industries of the Island, of which the more important are aloe fibre extraction, alcohol distilling from molasses and the manufacture of tea and tobacco, provided employment for some 4,880 skilled workers, 4,850 unskilled males, 2,731 females and some 1,544 juveniles. The public services employed 2,816 skilled workers and 6,375 unskilled men, 251 women and 138 juveniles. The number of persons employed in industries and the public services was registered as 77,812 of whom 11,922 were skilled workers, 45,547 unskilled men, and 20,343 women and juveniles.

The Sugar Industry

The value of the sugar annually exported from Mauritius represents more than 97 per cent of the total value of all exports from the Colony. The sugar industry therefore governs the entire economy of the Island; it embraces not only all those persons directly or indirectly interested in the planting of sugar cane and in the manufacture of sugar and its by-products, and interested in the financing of the cultivation, manufacture and marketing of the product but also affects, very largely, the public revenue and those classes of people such as merchants and bankers, whose business is mainly connected therewith.

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Much of the estate work is still of a manual nature, though mechanization of field work is being pushed as rapidly as imports of bulldozers, rotary ploughs and tractors permit; the rocky nature of the soil however makes it extremely unlikely that the industry can ever become fully mechanized.

Other Occupations

Other occupations include the aloe fibre *(Furcroea Gigantea)* industry, which produces fibre for making bags for the sugar industry; the tea industry, which is at present operating on a comparatively small scale and producing tea mainly for local consumption; tobacco growing; food crops and the cultivation of vegetables; and the rearing of milch cows and livestock on a small scale.

Minor industries include fishing, sawmills, garages, workshops, salt pans, lime kilns, furniture manufacture, charcoal burning, match manufacture, the preparation of hides and skins, tanning and boot and shoe manufacture, clothing and shirt manufacture and printing.

Apart from agricultural and industrial occupations, many of the population are employed as clerical workers, and as domestic servants.

There is full employment among agricultural workers during five months' crop season of the year, but unemployment is occasionally reported amongst this category of workers, in certain areas, at certain times during the remaining period of the year. Efforts are made through the machinery of the Local Employment Committees, to alleviate unemployment where it exists by the issue of permits to transport labourers by lorry to localities where work is available. Government Departments, employing labour, reserve, as far as possible, their major works for the intercrop season. Employers are requested to recruit their labour through the Employment Registration Bureau and when workers are discharged from employment, they are referred to the Bureau to register for re-employment.

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The number of unemployed persons and the number of workers placed for the year 1955 were as follows:

		Unemployed persons	*Placings*
1955	January	2,576	485
	February	3,049	319
	March	2,577	281
	April	2,446	334
	May	2,578	357
	June	2,479	269
	July	2,348	357
	August	2,379	367
	September	1,950	218
	October	2,104	239
	November	1,899	245
	December	1,793	237
	Average registration per month	2,348	—
	Average placings per month ...	—	309
1954	Average registration per month	1,467	—
	Average placings per month ...	—	340

There is no migrant labour problem in Mauritius.

During the year 1955, 37 workers were recruited through the Employment Registration Bureau in accordance with the Free Emigration Regulations, No. 156 of 1951, to take up employment in the following countries:

Madagascar	32
Portuguese East Africa ...	1
Southern Rhodesia ...	4
	37

The Emigration Regulations, 1951, as subsequently amended, provide as under:

3. Before leaving the Colony, an emigrant shall obtain an Emigration Certificate from the Regional Controller (Labour Commissioner) of the area in which the emigrant resides, and such certificate shall be granted under the following conditions:—

(1) The emigrant shall have registered at an Employment Registration Bureau as a person seeking employment.

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(2) The emigrant shall have completed a questionnaire in the form set out in the Schedule to these Regulations.

(3) The Regional Controller shall have satisfied himself, within the means at his disposal, that:—

(a) the proposed contract of service of the emigrant is fair and reasonable, and that the emigrant has taken adequate steps to provide for his dependent relatives in Mauritius;

(b) the contract of service will be valid in the country of employment;

(c) the emigrant is aware—

(i) of the general conditions of living in the country of employment;

(ii) of his rights as a British subject, and.

(iii) of the steps to be taken if he should at any time wish to return to Mauritius.

(4) The emigrant shall, if so required by the Regional Controller, submit himself for examination, at Government expense, by a duly qualified medical officer selected in that behalf by the Regional Controller.

(5) The emigrant shall, if so required, submit himself to a trade test under such conditions as the Regional Controller may prescribe, provided that such emigrant may be allowed all reasonable out of pocket expenses incurred by him for the purpose of undergoing such test.

WAGES

The level of wages is largely determined by the rates prevailing in the sugar industry. In this industry minimum rates of wages for workers of the artizan category (represented by the Artizans and General Workers' Union) and for labourers (represented by the Amalgamated Labourers' Association) are negotiated by collective bargaining between the two unions and the employers' organisation, the Sugar Producers' Association. A trade agreement provides for the cost of living bonus paid to sugar estate workers to fluctuate with the cost of living index prepared by the Labour Department and for a bonus to be paid at the end of the year, based on the size of the crop. The principle of collective bargaining has also been adopted by dock workers, by workers in the electricity supply

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companies, workers of the artizan category who are members of the Artizans and General Workers' Union and the respective Employers' Organisations. The wages of workers in some other industries are thought to be sufficiently protected, in general by the agreed rates payable in the sugar industry. In certain industries, however, where the trade union organisation is weak and incapable of fully representing the interests of its members, recourse has been had to orders issued under the Minimum Wages Ordinance. Orders of this nature have been issued in respect of workers in the printing trade, messengers in private firms, female factory workers and passenger road transport workers.

Basic wage rates in the sugar and other industries are sub-divided into different categories in accordance with the type of work and the different categories of workers. Typical rates are:

Sugar Industry

Monthly Employees

		Rs. cs.
Labourers		
Men	Class I ...	43 50 per month
Women and Young persons	Class I ...	28 85 do.
Children (under 14 years of age)	...	20 08 do.
Artisans	...	48 80 to Rs. 160 per month

Overtime, sickness allowance, house accommodation, paid holidays, annual leave and maternity allowance are also provided for.

Daily Workers

		Rs. cs.
Labourers		
Men	Class I ...	2 48 per day
Women	Class I ...	1 24 do.
Young Persons	...	1 00 do.
Children (under 14 years of age)	...	0 69 do.
Artisans	...	2 05 to Rs. 3.45 per day

A Cost of Living Allowance at the rate of 47½ per cent on basic wage is paid to all employed in the sugar industry. An end of crop bonus ranging from ½ month to 3 months wages is also granted to all monthly employed persons depending upon the size of the crop and the price obtained for sugar.

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Other Industries

	Rs. cs.		Rs. cs.
Dock workers	85 00	to	246 27 per month
	3 18	to	11 08 per day
Artizans (Grade II to Grade I) ..	95 00	to	310 00 per month
	3 50	to	11 00 per day
Printing workers	3 75	to	8 00 per day
Salesmen	70 00	to	200 00 per month

The above rates are inclusive of Cost of Living Allowance.

Hours of Work

In all cases where workers are employed upon a time-basis, the working day is of 8 hours, but where employed upon a task or piece work basis it may be only 5 hours. Government office hours are from 9 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. with a half hour break for lunch. Business offices and many of the shops in Port Louis follow more or less the same practice.

Labour Department—Cost of Living Figures

The Labour Department Cost of Living Index* figures for agricultural labourers in the year 1955 were:

January ...	151·2	July ...	145·7
February	152·8	August ...	146·9
March ...	154·5	September	147·6
April ..	154·6	October ...	143·5
May ...	148·4	November	143·5
June ...	144·0	December	144·5

The Labour Department

The Labour Department can trace some link in the past with the Office of the Protector of Slaves, for that office was succeeded by the Bureau of the Protector of Immigrants, and, when immigration had ceased, the Poor Law Commissioner occupied the building and also administered the Immigration Law. This law was thoroughly revised in 1878, again in 1922, and again in 1938. The same year an Ordinance legalised the existence of industrial associations and the Director of Labour was given certain powers for regulating the settlement of industrial disputes. The Labour Ordinance 1938 provided for the appointment of a Director of Labour and staff in order to " perform all duties imposed and exercise all powers conferred " on him by this Ordinance. The title of Director of Labour was later amended to that of Labour Commissioner.

* Base 1946 = 100

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The Labour Commissioner is an overseas officer, the Deputy Labour Commissioner and the Two Assistant Commissioners and the rest of the staff are recruited locally. The field staff consists of thirteen Labour Officers, including one woman officer who is particularly responsible for estate housing conditions.

Amongst the senior officers, duties are divided functionally, i.e. conciliation, trade union relations and enforcement of safety, health and welfare provisions. Amongst the junior officers, duties are divided territorially, and they are responsible under the senior officer to whom they are attached for whatever duties are allotted to them in their particular districts. These district Labour Officers, each of whom is required to follow a Labour Officers' Training Course in the United Kingdom, perform a most important task, being in close and continuous contact with the mass of the workers, and helping the individual worker to understand and make use of the Labour Laws.

Inspection of camps and factories is regular and thorough. Careful reports are prepared, and copies of the relevant portions are sent to the employers concerned, with a request for early action. These letters are followed up by further inspections, and a warning of prosecution if no action is taken by the employer. The number of factories registered has also increased considerably.

Many sugar estates house part of their labour force on the estates and a group of such lodgings is called a camp. Under the Labour Ordinance the state of these camps must not fall below a certain standard, and it is the duty of the Labour Department to inspect the camps at regular intervals.

Safety, Health and Welfare

The Safety, Health and Welfare Branch of the Labour Department is under the charge of an Assistant Labour Commissioner with a staff of two Labour Officers and one Female Labour Inspector to ensure the safety, health and welfare of employees under the Factory and Labour Ordinances.

(1) The Labour Officers enforce:

(a) the general safety provisions regarding: fencing of machinery, hoists, vessels containing dangerous liquids, the maintenance of floors and stairs, dangerous fumes in confined spaces, inflammable dust, vapours and substances, fire precautions and the registration of boilers and machinery;

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(b) the general health provisions dealing with cleanliness, overcrowding, space, temperature, ventilation, lighting, drainage and sanitary conveniences;

(c) the general welfare provisions dealing with messrooms, cloakrooms, washing facilities, wholesome drinking water, sitting facilities and first aid arrangements;

(d) the general provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (Cap 220 as subsequently amended) as far as factories are concerned, and

(e) the provisions of the Employment of Women, Young Persons, and Children Ordinance (Cap 211) regarding night work of women and young persons employed in industry and minimum age for admission of children to industrial employment.

(2) The female Labour Inspector is in charge of the inspection of quarters of workers housed by employers and the inspection of estate dispensaries and hospitals where these workers are given free medical attention under the provisions of the Labour Ordinance (Cap 214).

A Safety, Health and Welfare Committee has been appointed and meets from time to time for the discussion of relevant measures.

Industrial Training

Apprenticeship schemes : The Apprenticeship Ordinance, 1946, provides for the regulation of employment of apprentices and, under this Ordinance, the heavy Engineering Trade, the Automobile repairs and the Printing Industry have been designated.

Apprenticeship Committees meet periodically for the discussion of questions dealing with apprentices and their welfare.

The Employment Registration Bureau, which was opened at the beginning of the year 1949, is organized in three main centres and ten sub-centres. The Manager of the Bureau is also the Statistician of the Labour Department.

The Employment Branch of the Reabsorption Office which was responsible for the resettlement of ex-servicemen has now been amalgamated with the Employment Registration Bureau. The Bureau has now on its staff two placing officers, three interviewing officers, two travelling interviewing officers and twelve clerks.

The purpose of the Bureau is to put employers seeking workers in touch with workers seeking employment. The worker is classified

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on the basis of an evaluation of all his occupational qualifications as shown by work-experience, training and personal characteristics; workers may also be trade-tested whenever and wherever necessary and are graded accordingly. Vocational guidance is given to certain categories, especially to demobilised ex-servicemen.

Government department vacancies which are not filled by advertisement and a Board of Selection, are filled by the Employment Registration Bureau.

Industrial Organisations

There were at the end of the year 48 associations of Trade Unions composed of 38 associations of employees, including one General Workers Union in Rodrigues, 10 of employers, 14 of Government Servants and 3 of persons either working for themselves or hiring out their services. The total membership on the rolls is given as 30,653 of which 18,204 are paid up members. Two associations are in a dormant state.

The most important workers' organisations are :

	No. shown on roll	*No. who have ceased to be members*	*No. of members on 31.12.55*
Sugar Industry Staff Employees Association	578	—	578
General Port and Harbour Workers' Union	1,528	102	1,426
Mauritius Government Manual Workers' Union	1,464	623	841
Artisans and General Workers' Union	1,462	323	1,139
Government Servants' and Employees' Association	2,066	490	1,576
Railway Workers' Union	441	124	317
Government Teachers' Union ...	162	43	119
Aided Primary School Teachers' Union	642	236	406
Amalgamated Labourers' Association	12,144	6,442	5,702
Senior Professional Civil Servants' Association	88	18	70
Agricultural Workers' Union ...	6,765	3,185	3,580

The most important employers' organisations are:

	No. of members on 31.12.55
Sugar Producers' Association	33
Federation of Port and Harbour Employers	12
Tobacco Producers' Syndicate	65
Planters' Association	110

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LEGISLATION

The main legislation affecting labour relations is:—

The Labour Ordinance	(Cap 214 of the Laws 1945 Edition)
The Labour (Amendment) Ordinance	No. 33 of 1952
The Employment of Women, Young Persons and Children Ordinance	(Cap 211 of the Laws 1945 Edition) Ordinances No. 43 of 1945, No. 5 of 1952
The Factories Ordinance	No. 42 of 1946
The Shop Hours Ordinance	Cap 409 No. 56 of 1945 and No. 72 of 1946
The Shops (Amendment) Ordinance	No. 9 of 1952
The Workmen's Compensation Ordinance	Cap 220 of the Laws 1945 Edition)
The Employment Exchange Ordinance	No. 67 of 1947
The Trade Disputes Ordinance	No. 37 of 1954
The Trade Union Ordinance	No. 36 of 1954
The Apprenticeship Ordinance	No. 13 of 1946
The Recruitment of Workers' Ordinance	(Cap 218 of the Laws 1945 Ed.)
The Emigration Ordinance	(Cap 150 of the Laws 1945 Ed.) G. N. 156 of 1951
The Minimum Wages Ordinance	No. 36 of 1950
The Printing Workers (Minimum Wages) Order ...	G. N. No. 136 of 1952 No. 172 of 1953
The Minimum Wages Order – Messengers	G. N. No. 4 of 1953
The Minimum Wages Order—Female Factory Workers	G. N. No. 27 of 1953
The Minimum Wages Order—Bus Drivers and Conductors	G. N. No. 173 of 1953
The Minimum Wages Regulation (Shopping Trade) Order	G. N. No. 77 of 1955

THE EX-SERVICEMEN'S WELFARE FUND COMMITTEE

This committee is responsible for the distribution of approximately Rs. 400,000 annually with the object of resettling ex-servicemen in civil life. Help is limited to those who served in the Forces during the war years, but there are still about 10,000 ex-servicemen who qualify as applicants. Help usually takes the form of providing tools, paying off debts, paying transport to find work.

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Chapter 3: Public Finance and Taxation

Revenue and Expenditure

The following tables give a comparison under main Heads of Revenue and Expenditure of the Colony for the years ended 30th June, 1939, 1954 and 1955.

Revenue

Main Head	*Year ended 30th June*		
	1939	*1954*	*1955*
	Rs	*Rs*	*Rs*
1. Direct Taxes	1,036,451	32,488,250	38,818,586
2. Indirect Taxes	11,411,317	49,303,063	51,715,694
3. Receipts from Public Utilities ...	1,390,767	5,770,938	10,348,783
4. Receipts from Public Services ...	1,082,113	5,454,696	5,094,624
5. Rental of Government Property ...	229,221	493,301	674,556
6. Interest and Royalties	486,474	2,263,698	2,516,724
7. Land Sales	329	—	—
8. Colonial Development and Welfare	15,858	—	1,746,589
9. Development and Welfare	—	—	6,982,305
10. Repayment of Loans and Advances	2,198,308	2,004,558	3,907,317
TOTAL ...	17,850,838	97,778,504	121,805,178

Expenditure

Main Head	*Year ended 30th June*		
	1939	*1954*	*1955*
	Rs	Rs	Rs
I.—PRIOR CHARGES			
1. Public Debt	2,292,014	2,628,053	4,538,435
2. Public Service Pensions	1,695,428	9,667,633	6,464,342
3. Defence	935,903	1,129,727	1,784,045
	4,923,345	13,425,413	12,786,822
II.—GOVERNANCE			
4. Governor	82,659	230,155	195,846
5. Central Administration	88,893	1,138,593	658,145
6. District Administration	—	152,451	183,490
7. Local Government	—	—	1,078,729
8. Accountant General	197,112	495,175	518,254
9. Archives	—	—	103,539
10. Audit	79,185	221,971	254,602
11. Central Statistical Office	—	149,847	164,355
12. Customs and Excise	—	1,431,644	1,440,173
12a. Customs, Harbour, Port and Marine	613,206	—	—
13. Development Establishment ...	—	500,000	927,456
14. Income Tax	—	325,310	392,961
15. Judicial	402,390	1,143,645	1,227,770
16. Legal	99,564	162,953	184,623
17. Legislature	12,889	466,613	400,116
18. Miscellaneous	1,107,217	2,419,787	1,538,141
19. Police	970,903	5,131,297	5,711,995
20. Printing Office	107,772	597,143	624,917
21 Prisons and Industrial School ...	178,741	1,096,407	1,370,937
22. Registrar General	113,897	262,769	273,759
23. Supplies Control	—	—	293,312
24. Public Works and Surveys Establishment	340,007	4,009,083	1,749,021
	4,394,435	19,934,843	19,292,141

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III.—Social Services			
25. Co-operative Societies	—	—	181,185
26. Ecclesiastical...	211,914	408,347	380,659
27. Education	1,441,412	12,374,849	12,768,610
28. Health	1,477,202	11,676,674	10,811,716
29. Labour	770,307	414,383	451,997
30. Mauritius Institute	17,115	86,786	90,418
31. Public Assistance	—	3,028,162	7,901,136
32. Social Welfare	—	327,440	554,464
	3,917,950	28,316,641	33,140,185
IV.—Public Utilities and Services			
34. Agriculture	542,286	2,150,837	2,363,315
35. Civil Aviation	—	419,765	630,733
36. Electricity and Telephones ...	178,248	1,648,936	1,628,170
37. Fire Services	—	491,834	698,827
38. Forests	203,331	2,439,944	2,339,281
39. Granary	79,421	270,755	276,958
40. Harbour and Quays	—	2,147,328	1,010,121
41. Mauritius Broadcasting Service and Globe Reuter News Service	—	—	310,638
42. Observatory	41,543	248,947	286,964
43. Posts aud Telegraphs	322,521	1,744,652	1,641,080
44. Railways	765,444	2,500,837	6,454,812
	2,132,794	14,063,835	17,640,899
V.—Investment			
45. Public Works Annually Recurrent	1,039,379	4,880,996	6,219,556
Total Ordinary Expenditure ...	16,407,903	80,621,728	89,079,603
46. Public Works Non-Recurrent ...	228,204	4,768,130	4,787,801
47. Development Works and Projects ...	—	—	9,353,581
48 Loans and Advances	—	—	4,350,331
49. Reserves	—	—	7,500,000
	228,204	4,768,130	25,991,713
Development and Welfare			
Municipal	398,317	—	—
Harbour	143,755	—	—
Industrial School	34,298	—	—
Emergency Services	—	5,130,882	—
Subventions	—	1,645,566	—
Special Expenditure	6,788,462	1,878,247	—
	7,364,832	8,654,695	—
Total Expenditure ...	24,000,939	94,044,553	115,071,316

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PUBLIC DEBT

The Public Debt of the Colony on the 30th June, 1955, was Rs 71,716,926. Against this liability there was an accumulated Sinking Fund of Rs 4,704,989.

Local loan issues accounted for Rs 23,917,500 of the Public Debt as detailed below:—

	Rs
Agricultural Loan (No. 1) 1937	1,640,000
Agricultural Loan (No. 2) 1937	1,600,000
Mauritius Loan 1961	3,157,500
Mauritius Development and Welfare Loan 1971–81 ...	3,072,000
Development (General Purposes) Loan 1964–74	14,448,000
TOTAL ...	23,917,500

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

(Omitting Special Funds deposited in the Public Treasury)

LIABILITIES	*Rs*	ASSETS	*Rs*	*Rs*
Other Governments ...	176,483	Advances ...		24,125,751
Deposits	4,011,726	Cash Balance etc.	21,513,340	
Mauritius Development and Welfare Fund ...	7,487,886	Investments ...	25,966,827	
Joint Colonial Fund ...	5,720,000		47,480,167	
Loan Funds unexpended	48,915	Deduct: Balances of Special Funds etc. in the hands of the Accountant General ...	2,551,314	
Reserve Fund	17,000,000			44,928,853
General Revenue Balance	34,609,594			
TOTAL ...	69,054,604	TOTAL ...		69,054,604

THE MAIN HEADS OF TAXATION AND THEIR YIELD

	1953–54	*1954–55*
	Rs	*Rs*
Customs :—		
Import Duties...	24,724,847	27,107,069
Export Duties...	116,920	89,331
Excise duty on Rum	8,878,371	9,765,068
Tobacco Excise	4,763,107	4,778,745
Licence Duties	4,668,766	4,764,757
Income Tax (Others)	12,284,948	14,822,458
Income Tax, (Companies and Bodies Corporate)	18,582,794	22,857,807
Tax on Sweepstakes and Lotteries ...	1,188,940	1,279,890

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THE NATIONAL INCOME FOR 1954 WAS CALCULATED BY THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE TO BE Rs 576,000,000

Details of calculation are as follows :—

Net National Product Industrial Origin	*Rs (millions)*	%
1. Agriculture, forestry, hunting, and fishing ...	177	30·8
2. Mining and Quarrying..	—	—
3. Manufacturing	128	22·2
4. Construction	29	5·0
5. Electricity, water and sanitary services ...	10	1·7
6. Transportation, Storage and Communication ...	82	14·3
7. Wholesale and Retail Trade	54	9·4
8. Banking, Insurance and Real Estate	7	1·2
9. Ownership of dwellings	38	6·6
10. Public Administration and Defence	14	2·4
11. Services	48	8·3
12. Gross Domestic Product at factor cost ...	587	101·9
13. Less provision for the consumption of fixed capital	−23	−4·0
14. Net Domestic Product at factor cost	564	97·9
15. Plus Net factor income from the rest of the world	+12	+2·1
16. NET NATIONAL PRODUCT AT FACTOR COST..	576	100·0

National Income Distribution	*Rs (Millions)*	%
1. Compensation of employees	299	51·9
2. Income from farms, professions and other unincorporated enterprises received by households	107	18·6
3. Income from property received by households and private non-profit institutions	105	18·2
4. Saving of corporations	34	5·9
5. Direct taxes on corporations	24	4·2
6. General Government income from property and entrepreneurship ...	13	2·2
	582	101·0
7. Less Interest on public debt	−4	−0·7
8. Less Interest on consumers' debt	−2	−0·3
9. NATIONAL INCOME ...	576	100·0

Net National Expenditure Composition	*Rs (millions)*	%
1. Private consumption expenditure on goods and services	446	77·4
2. General Government consumption expenditure on goods and services	74	12·9
3. Net domestic fixed capital formation of private enterprises ...	32	5·6
4. Net domestic fixed capital formation of Government and public enterprises	21	3·6
5. Net exports of goods and services	+41	7·1
6. Net factor income payments from rest of the world	+12	2·1
7. Net National Expenditure at Market Prices ...	626	108·7
8. *Less* Indirect Taxes ...	−52	−9·0
9. *Plus* Subsidies	+ 2	0·3
10. NET NATIONAL EXPENDITURE AT FACTOR COST	576	100·0

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Comparative Figures of National Income Growth

Year	National Income Rs million	Increase on 1950 per cent	Resident population June 30th in each year	Actual per capita income Rs	*Real per capita income Rs	Increase or decrease per cent
1950 ...	410	—	466,052	880	880	—
1951 ...	465	13	483,859	961	907	+3·1
1952 ...	518	26	502 075	1,032	852	−6·1
1953 ...	583	42	516,525	1,129	918	+7·7
1954 ...	576	40	530,461	1,086	890	−3·1

Customs Tariff

The New Tariff Ordinance which was promulgated in 1954 is based on the Standard International Trade Classification. The first schedule to this Tariff comprises three main sections (i) Import duties, (ii) Exemptions, (iii) Export duties. Provision is made for the imposition of a preferential tariff on goods produced or manufactured in the United Kingdom and certain other territories, but admission of the goods to preference is dependent on the production of supporting evidence including prescribed certificates of origin and value. In the absence of this information, the general tariff rate is charged.

Export duties are levied on sugar and molasses, and in addition there are small duties imposed on goods exported from bond, goods in transit, and goods reshipped after being landed from distressed vessels.

Package Tax

With effect from the 29th June, 1951, a package tax is levied under Ordinance No. 32 of 1951 on all goods shown in the first schedule thereof, imported and landed at any port in the Colony. This tax is levied at variable low rates.

Exemptions are provided for in the second schedule to the Ordinance.

Excise Duties

Excise duties are leviable on Colonial spirits (rum), country liquor (Mauritius Fruit Wine), tobacco, matches, spirits used in the manufacture of denatured spirits (except for power purposes), vinegar, tinctures and drugs, and perfumed spirits. The consumption of rum during the year showed an increase over the previous year. The revenue collected in respect of country liquor was similarly higher than in the previous years.

*i.e. income reduced to constant prices (1950).

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Stamp Duties

Stamp Duties are of three kinds:—

Schedule " A " to the Stamps (Consolidation) Ordinance, Cap 160, specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a duty in proportion to the size of paper used. The tariff ranges from Re 0.30 cs. to Rs 1.80 cs.

Schedule " B " specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to a fixed stamp duty. The amounts vary from Re 0.05 cs to Rs 15.00.

Schedule " C " specifies the instruments or writings which are subject to an *ad valorem* duty. These include Bills of Exchange, Promissory Notes, Policies of Insurance, Debentures. The duties are mainly on a sliding scale.

The Stamp Duties collected in respect of impressed paper during the financial year 1954–55 amounted to Rs 749,966.84.

Income Tax

Full income tax is imposed by the provisions of the Income Tax Ordinance (No. 84 of 1950).

The rate of tax applicable to companies is 40 per cent of the amount of chargeable income.

The following schedule shows the tax payable by individuals at various chargeable income levels:—

	Chargeable Income Rs		*Rate of Tax* cs
For every rupee of the first	5,000	...	10
For every rupee of the next	5,000	...	15
do. do.	5,000	...	25
do. do.	10,000	...	40
do. do.	25,000	...	50
do. do.	50,000	...	60
Remainder of the chargeable income		...	75

Collections in the year 1954–55 amounted to Rs 37,680,265 as compared with Rs 30,867,741 in 1953–54.

Estate Duty

Although estate duty does not exist in Mauritius, death duty is payable at a rate dependent upon both the relationship to the deceased and the aggregate value of all property passing at death. This system combines the principles of legacy, succession and estate duties, the two first duties being leviable according to the degree of relationship without aggregation of the whole estate and the latter on the aggregate estate irrespective of relationship.

The rates of death duty were increased in July 1953. The duty collected during the year 1955 amounted to Rs 577,651.44 compared with Rs 707,157.45 in 1954.

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Local Authorities Finances

The undermentioned table gives comparative figures of revenue and expenditure of the four urban local authorities for the last financial year:—

Local Authority	*Financial Year*	*Revenue* Rs cs	*Expenditure* Rs cs
Municipality of Port Louis	1955	3,101,714 85	3,001,062 14
Town Council of Beau Bassin—Rose Hill (excluding Housing Scheme) ...	1954–55	753,366 33	675,186 64
Town Council of Quatre Bornes (excluding Housing Scheme) ...	1954–55	300,273 25	329,477 95
Town Council of Curepipe (excluding Housing Scheme)	1954–55	891,434 83	753,874 70

District and Village Councils

The three District Councils established under Ordinance No. 76 of 1951 receive subsidies and grants from the Government and allocate them to the Village Councils, according to estimates approved by the District Councils. In addition to any taxation which may be imposed by the Village Councils, the District Councils have the right to levy taxes which do not apply to any particular village, such as advertisement and placard tax, and entertainment tax. The total estimates for the 96 Village Councils amounted to approximately Rs 403,000. Government grants, including subsidies for scavenging and roads, totalled Rs 468,000. Revenue from Entertainment Tax totalled Rs 75,648.

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Chapter 4: Currency and Banking

Currency

The local unit of Currency is the Mauritius Rupee which is subdivided into 100 cents. The rupee is equivalent to 1s 6d Sterling.

The notes in circulation are of denominations of Rs 25, Rs 10 and Rs 5. There is in addition, a Rs 1,000 note which is legal tender only between the local banks and the Government.

Proclamation No. 11 of the 14th June, 1955, declared that notes issued prior to the 15th October, 1954, shall cease to be legal tender as from the 1st August, 1955.

The coins in circulation are the following:—

Cupro-Nickel: One Rupee, Half-Rupee, Quarter-Rupee and Ten Cent.

Bronze: 5 cent, 2 cent and 1 cent.

The value of currency in circulation for the last three financial years is given hereunder—:

	30th June, 1953 Rs.	*30th June, 1954* Rs.	*30th June, 1955* Rs.
Notes	48,161,000	50,804,000	50,689,000
Coins	3,282,000	3,301,400	3,419,400
TOTAL ...	51,443,000	54,105,400	54,108,400

Local Banks

Three trading banks operate in Mauritius: The Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd, The Mercantile Bank of India Ltd and Barclays Bank D.C.O.

Savings bank facilities are provided by the Post Office Savings Bank, The Mauritius Agricultural Bank, The Mauritius Commercial Bank Ltd, Barclays Bank D.C.O. and The Mercantile Bank of India Ltd.

Long-term loans for agricultural and housing purposes are provided by the Mauritius Agricultural Bank, while Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Limited undertakes medium-term finance on a commercial basis for sound development projects of all kinds. There is however a lack of financial institutions specialising in long-term loans to individual borrowers for such purposes as housing, although loans against mortgages are of course obtainable from private sources. The Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Ltd provides finance on a seasonal basis for the cultivation requirements of the co-operative credit movement. The Government also provides assistance to local industry in the form of medium term loans.

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The Mauritius Commercial Bank was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1838 with a capital of Rs 2,000,000; in 1948 the capital was increased to Rs 3,000,000. The Bank was registered as a Limited Liability Company in August 1955.

The Bank's Head Office is in Port Louis with branches at Curepipe, Rose Hill and Mahebourg. Its London agents are Lloyds Bank Limited. It has correspondents all over the world and is able to offer a complete banking service. The total deposits at the Head Office and its branches as at 31st December 1955 amounted to Rs 66,774,014.22; and reserves stood at Rs 4,070,110.

The Mercantile Bank of India Ltd took over the business of the Bank of Mauritius Ltd. on the 31st May, 1916. The paid-up capital of the Bank at the 31st December, 1955, was £1,470,000: Reserve Funds amounted to £1,750,000. Through its Head Office in London and its branches throughout India, Malaya and the Far East, the Mercantile Bank of India Ltd is able to offer comprehensive banking facilities to the people of Mauritius.

Barclays Bank D.C.O. has its Head Office in London and about 935 Branches in Africa, the Mediterranean area, the Carribbean area, England, New York and Hamburg, with correspondents in all other important centres. The paid-up capital of the Bank was £12,932,250 as at the 30th September, 1955, and the Reserve Fund was £8,500,00. On the same date total deposits were £508,478,781. The Bank, which is affiliated with Barclays Bank Ltd. was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1836 as the Colonial Bank and reincorporated by Act of Parliament in 1925; the name was then changed to Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) which amalgamated with the Anglo-Egyptian Bank Ltd and the National Bank of South Africa Ltd. The Port Louis, Mauritius, Branch was established by the last-named Bank in December, 1919, and was taken over by Barclays Bank (Dominion, Colonial and Overseas) following the amalgamation. The name of the Bank was changed to Barclays Bank D.C.O. in 1954. The Bank acts as Agent for Barclays Overseas Development Corporation Ltd which was formed in 1946 to assist in the economic development of territories in which the Bank operates and which had a paid-up capital of £4,000,000 on the 30th September, 1955.

Post Office Savings Bank

The Post Office Savings Bank is operated by the Posts and Telegraphs Department. At the 30th June, 1955, the Bank had 67,110 active accounts and 22,964 dormant accounts with a balance due to depositors of Rs 29,578,067. Savings Bank business is

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transacted at 31 Post Offices. During 1955, transactions amounted in number and value to 118,546 deposits totalling Rs 17,403,518 and 78,831 withdrawals totalling Rs 17,855,699. Accounts are regarded as dormant if no transaction takes place for a period of twenty years.

THE MAURITIUS AGRICULTURAL BANK

The Mauritius Agricultural Bank was established by Ordinance No 1 of 1936 as a "body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal . . . for the purpose of making long-term loans for agricultural needs."

It started its activities in 1937 with a capital of Rs 10,000,000 which was raised by loans, locally and overseas, by Government. Of this amount Rs 360,000 has been reimbursed by the Bank which had also contributed at the 31st December, 1955, Rs 1,229,600 to a Sinking Fund.

The first change in the constitution of the Bank occurred in 1940 when the minimum for loans (which had been Rs 5,000) was abolished and the Bank was authorised to draw Bills on the Treasury to finance loans for amounts under Rs 5,000.

The Mauritius Economic Commission (1948) recommended that the Bank's capital be increased and the scope of its activities extended to meet the needs of industrial as well as agricultural enterprises. Legislation was passed to this effect and to authorise the Bank to make long-term loans for housing (Ordinance No 68 of 1950).

In 1949 the Bank had been authorised to raise Rs 3,000,000 from the public by the sale of short-term bills. By Ordinance No 68 of 1950 it was further empowered:—

(a) to raise funds from the public by the issue of long-term debentures, by the issue of subscription debentures payable monthly and quarterly and by accepting fixed deposits for 12–36 months and savings deposits;

(b) to arrange long-term loans and bank overdrafts.

One of the objects of authorising the Bank to raise funds from the public was to encourage saving in the Colony and it was hoped that the wide choice of investments would prove attractive. The response from the public has, so far, been encouraging. At the 31st December, 1955, there were:—

1,584 Savings Accounts for Rs 1,570,831

331 Fixed Deposit Accounts for Rs 2,596,932

213 Accounts for Subscription Debentures involving monthly payments of Rs 12,900 and quarterly payments of Rs 465

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At the 31st December, 1955, the Bank had paid out Rs 48,201,182 in loans as follows:—

	Rs
For agriculture	39,0[illegible] 1,955
For housing	8,8[illegible] 9,237
For industry	2 9,990
TOTAL ...	48,201,182

The Bank has been entrusted with the management of the loans granted under the Hurricane Loan Ordinance (1945), the Rehabilitation of Factories and Rolling Stock Ordinance (1949), and the Aloe Fibre Industry (Development) Ordinance (1952). The total amount outstanding on its books due by borrowers at the 31st December, 1955, was Rs 48,710,326, of which Rs 34,069,468 consisted of Agricultural Bank loans proper (including Rs 7,598,616 for housing loans), Rs 10,595,753 due by borrowers under the 1945 Hurricane Loan Ordinance, Rs 3,723,790 due by borrowers under the Rehabilitation of Factories and Rolling Stock Ordinance and Rs 321,315 due by borrowers under the Aloe Fibre Industry (Development) Ordinance.

The demand for loans since 1950 has been far in excess of the resources of the Bank.

The following is a summary of the Bank's balance sheet as at the 31st December, 1955:—

LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
	Rs		*Rs*
Mauritius Government ...	10,624,000	Loans	34,069,467
Debentures and Sub-Debentures	14,592,000	Cash	1,158,158
Deposits	6,732,512	Investments	1,316,634
Short-term Bills	2,965,000	Other Assets	750,537
Internal A/cs and other liabilities	364,856	Sinking Fund Contributions	1,229,600
Sinking Fund	1,229,600		38,524,396
Reserves and Profit and Loss A/c	2,016,428		
	38,524,396	Hurricane Loan 1945 ...	10,595,753
Funds administered on behalf of the Colonial Government	14,640,858	Rehabilitation Loans ...	3,723,790
		Aloe Fibre Industry Loans	321,315
TOTAL ...	53,165,254		53,165,254

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BANKING STATISTICS

NUMBER OF REPORTING BANKS : 4

Figures for end of month December, 1955

LIABILITIES	*Rs (thousand)*
1. Notes in circulation	—
2. Deposits :—	
(*a*) Demand	103,215
(*b*) Time	30,825
(*c*) Savings	5,852
3. Balances due to :—	
(*a*) Other banks in the Colony	2,745
(*b*) Banks abroad	1,546
4. Other liabilities etc., ...	49,367
TOTAL LIABILITIES	193,550

ASSETS	*Rs (thousand)*
1. Cash	6,503
2. Balances due by other banks in the Colony ...	3,210
3. Balances due from banks abroad	89,270
4. Loans and advances :—	
(*a*) Primary production (including processing of primary products)	37,716
(*b*) Other industries (including Commerce, Transport and Distribution)	12,113
(*c*) Other advances	31,157
5. Investments :—	
(*a*) Local	3,349
(*b*) Other	2,696
6. Other Assets	7,536
TOTAL ASSETS	193,550

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Bank Rates

The buying and selling rates for telegraphic transfers were at the end of 1955 roughly as under:—

	Buying	*Selling*
British Sterling		
Under £ 5,000 ...	Rs 13.25 per £ 1 ...	Rs 13.43 per £ 1
£ 5,000 and over ...	Rs 13.26 ,, ...	Rs 13.40 ,,
Canadian Dollars ...	Rs 4.80 per $ 1	Rs 5.00 per $ 1
U.S.A. Dollars	Rs 4.72½—4.74½ per $ 1	Rs 4.82 per $ 1
South African Pounds		
Under £ 5,000 ...	Rs 13.20 per £ 1 ...	Rs 13.45 per £ 1
£ 5,000 and over ...	Rs 13.20 ,, ...	Rs 13.42 ,,
Australian Pounds ...	Rs 10.50—10.60 per £1	Rs 10.80—10.85 per £ 1
French Francs		
France	Rs 1.34 per 100 francs ...	Rs 1.38 per 100 francs
C.F.A.	Rs 2.68 per 100 francs ...	Rs 2.78 ,,
Other Currencies		
India	At par	1 % premium
Kenya	Rs 65.50 per 100 shs ...	Rs 67.15 per 100 shs.

The control of foreign exchange was maintained in 1955 under the Mauritius Exchange Control Ordinance, 1951, which was enacted on the lines of the United Kingdom Exchange Control Act, 1947, and thus ensures similarity of practice on exchange control matters in the Scheduled Territories.

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Chapter 5: Commerce

The commerce of the Colony depends almost entirely on the sugar crop which in 1955 yielded 533,261 metric tons as compared with 498,568 metric tons in 1954. High degree alcohol, a by-product of sugar, is produced especially for local consumption, the quantity exported being negligible. The exportation of molasses, another by-product of sugar, was 53,957 metric tons in 1955 against 89,912 metric tons in 1954 and 67,848 metric tons in 1953.

A small part of the Colony's demand for foodstuffs is provided by local production namely meat, sugar, salt, tea, fruit and vegetables, fish (fresh and dried) and coconut oil. Local industries produce cigarettes, matches, aloe fibre bags for sugar, rum and country liquor. The bulk of the needs of the Colony are met by importations from other countries.

The imports of rice, the staple food of the Colony, rose from 37,989 metric tons in 1954 to the unusually high figure of 58,171 metric tons in 1955. The imports of flour also show an appreciable increase: 23,089 metric tons in 1955 against 19,437 metric tons in 1954. Frozen meat was imported from Australia, beef on the hoof from Madagascar and considerable quantities of foodstuffs from the United Kingdom and the Union of South Africa.

The United Kingdom continues to be the principal source of supply for manufactured goods such as textiles, apparel, machinery, motor vehicles, hardware and electrical goods. Large quantities of cotton piece goods are received from India. Fertilizers were imported mainly from the United Kingdom, France and the German Federal Republic and large supplies of general merchandise were received from Hong Kong.

DIRECTION OF EXPORT TRADE

Preferential Tariff Countries	*1953* *Rs*	*1954* *Rs*	*1955* *Rs*
United Kingdom	163,779,653	197,496,905	199,959,930
Aden	—	1,333	1,300
Australia and New Zealand	34,259	11,596	188,480
British East Africa	4,566,363	285,318	309,364
British Somaliland	252,007	—	—
Canada	40,629,964	39,975,126	40,969,034
Ceylon	20,413,800	18,384,619	7
Hong Kong	23,690,533	10,936	41,539
India	2,515	5,461	4,162
Seychelles	546,404	427,294	544,441
Southern Rodesia	10,777,779	20	11,681
Straits Settlements	29,095	14,981	258,776
Union of South Africa	238,790	503,247	256,012
Other Preferential Tariff Countries	3,330	67,355	30,093
TOTAL	264,964,492	257,184,905	242,574,819

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DIRECTION OF EXPORT TRADE—*continued*

General Tariff Countries	*1953* Rs	*1954* Rs	*1955* Rs
Belgium	23,408	465	37,387
France	88,903	96,832	137,763
Germany	9,065	8,810	20,043
Greece	484,965	—	—
Holland	492,600	57,656	112,836
Italy	46	223,520	133
Madagascar	629,308	518,175	389,115
Norway	1,163	—	—
Portuguese East Africa	34,024	350	—
Reunion	383,556	468,845	372,252
Sweden	—	—	56
Syria	3	—	—
United States of America ...	751,858	1,518,997	1,158,005
Other General Tariff Countries ...	27,116	32,666	92,153
TOTAL ...	2,926,015	2,925,602	2,319,743
Sugar Quota Certificates ...	6,274,589	6,855,174	6,872,333
GRAND TOTAL OF EXPORTS ...	274,165,096	266,965,681	251,766,895

DIRECTION OF IMPORT TRADE

Preferential Tariff Countries	*1953* Rs	*1954* Rs	*1955* Rs
United Kingdom	95,988,277	80,159,862	100,635,190
Aden	205,103	770,258	2,713,390
Australia and New Zealand ...	20,343,915	16,728,904	17,721,084
Bahrein	2,867,153	1,977,125	1,042,180
British East Africa	3,858,888	3,526,107	1,126,299
British West Indies	43,506	305,330	441,784
Burma	47,194,953	21,798,689	27,913,876
Canada	7,808	4,131	15,903
Ceylon	361,982	240,836	223,285
Cyprus	279,730	175,514	97,982
Eire	6,434	42,623	33,046
Hong Kong	2,369,270	3,274,086	4,731,720
India	10,569,185	12,794,376	25,540,948
Pakistan	24,253	32,785	21,429
Rhodesia	698,184	751,059	509,339
Seychelles	145,859	348,988	264,661
Straits Settlements	4,309,098	4,223,738	4,488,794
Sudan	1,288,135	2,237,601	579,662
Union of South Africa	8,849,360	12,694,358	10,694,327
Other Preferential Tariff Countries	71,132	9,008	31,469
TOTAL	199,482,225	162,095,378	198,826,368

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DIRECTION OF IMPORT TRADE—*continued*

General Tariff Countries	*1953* Rs	*1954* Rs	*1955* Rs
Belgium	1,539,624	3,120,206	5,737,316
Chile	—	1,344,169	29
Czechoslovakia	224,121	383,981	737,987
Denmark	100,361	161,641	177,195
Ethiopia	1,477,941	870,928	388,973
France	11,892,398	9,425,942	10,659,138
Germany (Western)	3,044,062	5,756,056	6,766,957
Holland	1,983,176	2,361,546	2,229,574
Hungary	21,452	24,273	22,940
Iran	31,257	43,602	2,323,534
Italy (including Sicily)	6,509,153	4,098,231	959,927
Japan	348,794	1,403,834	3,240,917
Luxembourg	118,084	212,066	226,646
Madagascar	4,723,299	1,624,775	2,631,801
Morocco	269,132	221,691	165,743
Netherlands East Indies ...	83,358	55,153	—
Netherlands West Indies ...	1,167,999	1,569,799	1,179,163
Norway	136,376	77,184	176,925
Poland	7,757	77,313	215,675
Portugal	711,319	574,833	794,820
Portuguese East Africa	2,807,302	1,963,696	2,036,759
Russia	5,604	74	2,919
Saudi Arabia	142,739	69,023	15,874
Siam	7,822,966	10,714,850	2,190,902
Spain	162,892	163,269	206,434
Sweden	663,950	912,532	994,232
Switzerland	571,216	924,206	1,042,179
U. S. America	3,840,309	2,778,930	4,622,142
Yougoslavia	—	911	62
Other Countries	1,070,500	1,187,042	1,706,168
TOTAL ...	51,477,231	52,121,756	51,452,941
BAGGAGE ...	134,299	142,221	192,938
GRAND TOTAL OF IMPORTS ...	251,093,755	214,359,355	250,472,247

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TRADE FIGURES

*I—Imports**

Principal Imports	*1953* TOTAL=Rs. 251,093,755 *Quantity*	*C.I.F. Value Rs.*	*1954* TOTAL=Rs. 214,359,355 *Quantity*	*C.I.F. Value Rs.*	*1955* TOTAL=Rs. 250,472,247 *Quantity*	*C.I.F. Value Rs.*	*Main Country of Supply*
Rice	58,562 M. Tons	60,180,099	37,989 M. Tons	31,966,229	58,171 M. Tons	40,878,599	Burma, Siam and India,
Wheaten flour	21,699 ,,	13,293,167	19,437 ,,	10,091,687	23,089 ,,	10,310,297	Australia, Union of South Africa, India and Burma.
Other grain and grain products ...	6,474 ,,	4,515,644	8,340 ,,	4,914,072	9,802 ,,	5,455,321	India, Australia, Union of South Africa, and Ethiopia.
Cattle and meat	—	2,730,715	—	3,341,489	—	3,975,050	Madagascar (cattle) and Australia (Meat).
Edible oils and fats	5,469 ,,	11,572,942	5,389 ,,	9,150,008	4,738 ,,	7,338,010	Portuguese East Africa, India and United Kingdom,
Beverages	—	2,704,955	—	3,106,413	—	3,111,732	United Kingdom, France, Union of South Africa, and Holland.
Coal	28,199 ,,	1,957,423	26,922 ,,	1,880,813	9,181 ,,	841,613	India and Union of South Africa.
Petroleum products	—	11,525,673	—	10,224,876	—	9,315,889	Bahrein, Aden, Iran and Netherlands West Indies.
Wood and wood manufactures ...	—	4,307,779	—	4,580,837	—	5,194,205	Straits Settlements, Siam, and Sweden.
Gunny bags	1,407,222 Nos.	1,672,351	2,125,791 Nos.	2,719,631	1,344,615 Nos.	1,804,360	India.
Cotton piece goods ...	8,013,594 sqms	10,667,371	7,329,364 sqms	9,705,100	8,194,399 sqms	10,437,672	United Kingdom, India, Japan and Hong Kong.
Silk piece goods	2,386,305 ,,	4,812,258	2,193,752 ,,	4,180,586	2,288,516 ,,	4,188,652	United Kingdom, Japan, Hong Kong and India.
Woollen piece goods	211,455 ,,	2,346,338	160,969 ,,	1,955,264	215,256 ,,	2,577,514	United Kingdom, Poland, France, Italy,
Vehicles :—							
(1) Road :—							
(a) Motor cars	753 Nos.	4,923,125	404 Nos.	2,573,514	959 Nos.	6,193,874	United Kingdom and Germany.
(b) Other	—	7,162,047	—	5,358,867	—	5,858,377	United Kingdom.
(2) Railway and tramway locomotives and accessories ...	—	1,381,701	—	806,939	—	1,532,345	United Kingdom, and United States of America.
(3) Ships, aircraft and accessories	—	1,285,597	—	76,996	—	434,802	United States of America, and United Kingdom.
Cement	27,528 M. Tons	3,951,290	40,299 M. Tons	5,677,020	46,376 M. Tons	6,434,428	United Kingdom, Belgium, Germany, France.
Machinery	3,844 ,,	19,469,045	2,459 ,,	12,839,612	3,117 ,,	15,708,926	United Kingdom, France, United States of America, Germany.
Electrical goods	—	4,152,046	—	3,360,050	—	8,087,100	United Kingdom, France, Holland, Germany.
Iron and steel goods	10,071 ,,	14,131,769	15,474 ,,	17,154,341	15,596 ,,	17,893,318	United Kingdom, Germany, United States of America, France.
Manures and Fertilizers ...	31,940 ,,	9,758,370	31,543 ,,	9,474,065	36,790 ,,	12,270,800	United Kingdom, France and Germany.
Paper and paper manufactures ...	1,589	2,161,989	1,690 ,,	2,601,418	1,298 ,,	2,503,062	United Kingdom, Germany, Norway and Union Of South Africa.

* Excluding Bullion and Specie valued at Rs. 1,063,867 in 1953, Rs. 698,845 in 1954 and Rs. 99,996 in 1955.

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*II.--Exports**

	1953	*1954*	*1955*
	Rs	*Rs*	*Rs*
(*a*) Domestic Exports	264,785,990	257,558,856	241,587,467
(*b*) Sugar Quota Certificates ...	6,274,589	6,855,174	6,872,333
(*c*) Re-Exports	3,104,517	2,551,651	3,307,095
TOTAL EXPORTS ...	274,165,096	266,965,681	251,766,895

Principal Exports	*Quantity*	*F.O.B. Value* Rs	*Quantity*	*F.O.B. Value* Rs	*Quantity*	*F.O.B. Value* Rs	*Main Countries of Destination*
Sugar ...	481,892 M. Tons	264,908,589†	502,404 M. Tons	258,908,757†	475,358 M. Tons	244,205,676†	United Kingdom, Canada, Straits Settlements and Seychelles.
Molasses ...	67,848 ,,	4,641.194	89,912 ,,	4,511,647	53,957 ,,	2,941,206	United Kingdom, United States of America, New Zealand.
Rum ...	14,607 Hectols	1,073,704	284 Hectols	25,403	295 Hectols	23,057	Hong Kong & Seychelles.
Aloe Fibre ...	142 M. Tons	56,363	60 M. Tons	25,007	186 M. Tons	99,565	France, Belgium, German Federal Republic.
Tea ...	33 ,,	170,990	113 ,,	591,769	176 ,,	944,618	United Kingdom, Holland and Union of South Africa.

*Exports of Bullion and Specie in 1953 : Nil ; in 1954 : Rs. 108,000 ; in 1955 : Nil.
†Including Value of Sugar Quota Certificates.

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Chapter 6 : Production

Land Utilisation and Water Conservation

Mauritius covers an area of 460,800 acres of which about 206,000 acres are under cultivation of a very efficient type as compared with many colonial territories. Beyond the crops from this land the Island produces little else with which to meet the requirements of a population numbering over half a million, or over 750 per square mile. The balance of the agricultural land is made up of rough meadow, grass and scrub lands including wild growing aloe fibre, and totals about 110,000 acres.

The non-agricultural lands consist of about 88,400 acres of forests and natural reserves, and about 54,000 acres of permanent waste lands, built up areas, rivers, ponds and lakes.

The central and elevated part of the Island, above the 100" isohyet, is mostly covered with forest and scrub land to protect and regulate the water resources. In this area, cultivation, except for tea, is not very conspicuous. No laws specially protecting this natural watershed exist except those giving protection to Mountain and River Reserves and to a coastal belt 250 feet wide known as " Pas Géométriques ".

The main upland water catchment area is mostly Crown property and utilized for the production of forest produce, fuel and fodder, with a limited acreage under tea and other crops. Water resources are mainly dependent on the incidence of nearby cyclonic disturbances bringing rain, most of which falls in the hot season or in the heavy downpours accompanying cyclonic disturbances. Several reservoirs have been constructed in order to hold this water for utilization, both for domestic and irrigation purposes and for the production of electrical energy. Progress continued during the year on the construction of the major system of reservoirs which is scheduled for completion in the near future.

Land Ownership

In the early days of French colonization, land was conceded to settlers almost all over the Island. Later, land ownership was governed by the French Civil Code or " Code Napoléon ", which is still in force. This provides for equal division of property among the heirs, the result, in the case of land, leading ultimately in many cases to excessive fragmentation. The demand for land is accentuated by the rapid growth of population, leading to the inflation of

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land values. Grouping of estates into companies has checked fragmentation for the bulk of the land, although for a time speculation led to a system of parcelling known as "morcellement" when large tracts of land were purchased and sold again in numerous small lots.

Land Tenure

The Island was uninhabited when first colonized. Its original permanent settlers were the French who, through the grant of concessions, became the original freehold owners of all the land except Crown Lands. At present, apart from Crown lands, including Crown Forests and the " Pas Géométriques " which total 83,000 acres, the rest of the land is owned in large or small lots by all sections of the community. Roughly 75 per cent is owned by companies and private estates, the remainder being the property of the Indo-Mauritian section of the population. In addition to freehold tenure, land is also held leasehold and on share cropping agreements.

Leasehold tenure is practised to a limited extent on privately-owned lands and on Crown lands. In the case of Crown Lands, leasing is generally by auction to the highest bidder, but it may also be by contract, leases varying from 3 to 30 years with security of tenure to satisfactory tenants. Various types of share cropping in the form of ' metayage ' exist.

Renting System

Rentals are either cash, crop-sharing or " Taungya ". Cash rentals are payable monthly, quarterly or annually; in crop sharing the proportion of the crop handed over as rental varies according to circumstances and the nature of the crop; under the " Taungya " system, which is adopted in tree plantations, especially by Government in forest areas, the tenant is permitted to grow vegetables or annual crops between the young trees provided he keeps the trees clear of weeds and fills up the gaps. This is a temporary system, as cultivation is discontinued as soon as the trees are developed.

Land and Water Development Programmes

These include provision for:

(a) increased reservoir construction both for domestic and irrigation purposes, the latter leading to increased cultivation of land;

(b) increased generation of electrical power.

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Land Settlement

About 70 years ago the process of parcelling land known as " morcellement ", referred to above, began. In the years which followed it gained momentum until some thirty years ago, when after a last short spurt, it practically ceased to operate, except occasionally at irregular intervals. This has resulted in the automatic, if unorganized, settlement on the land of a very large number of peasant proprietors who, by thrift, became owners of their own plots of land in many localities of the Island. In recent years organized settlement was attempted and a pilot scheme was put under way. The policy at present is to complete the pilot land settlement scheme in order to obtain reliable figures on the economy of such schemes. The first settlement at Petit Sable worked quite satisfactorily in the past year. There are 10 residential small holdings, 40 allotments and 85 onion plots. Small holders are allowed to plant half of their plots with sugarcane, which last year gave very satisfactory yields. The cooperative credit society into which the tenants formed themselves functioned smoothly.

Nineteen tenants are established at Richelieu where the work on the improvement of irrigation is in progress.

At Terre Rouge, over an area of 300 acres, cleared in 1954, 102 tenants are now established. It has not yet been possible to provide them with irrigation water but plans for an extensive distributive and storage system have been prepared and tenders for the construction of the works are under consideration.

There are no laws relating specifically to settlement, but where suitable Crown Lands are not available in any area, Government can use compulsory powers to acquire land under Ordinance No 77 of 1952.

Agriculture

Sugar

Mauritius is naturally best adapted for the production of sugar which is the main staple of the Island and on the proceeds of which live a population of over half a million. The whole of the production, with the exception of some 22,000 tons consumed locally, is exported mainly to the United Kingdom.

In 1955, the production of sugar amounted to 533,235 metric tons obtained from an harvested area of about 177,000 acres. The average annual production of the preceding three years was 492,000 tons. The average yield of cane per acre over the whole island was

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about 25·3 tons, or 1·2 tons more than in the preceding year. Sugar extraction was 12·61 per cent as compared to 11·65 in 1954. The production of sugar per acre was approximately 3·20 tons which is more than the previous record by about 0·14 ton.

Although a considerable proportion of cane lands is under peasant ownership, mostly Indo-Mauritian, the bulk of the sugar is produced on the plantation scale. The larger plantations with factories produced about 57 per cent of the total crop. The smaller peasant owners, some 15,000 of whom cultivate altogether about 19 per cent of the land under cane, often work their land with the assistance of their families, employing extraneous labour at peak times such as at planting and when harvesting. Many of these small planters have grouped themselves into cooperative societies for the purpose of consigning their canes to factories.

The cane is milled in 26 factories which, for the most part, are company owned.

The whole of the sugar produced is marketed by the Mauritius Sugar Syndicate. Since the War the price of Commonwealth sugar has been fixed year by year by agreement with the United Kingdom Government. In 1955 the conditions of the Commonwealth Sugar Agreement continued to be applied, whereby the United Kingdom undertook to purchase 351,000 long tons of Mauritius sugar at the same price as in 1954, the balance of the crop being available for sale at world market prices.

A considerable part of the available balance for sale on the open market was exported mostly to Canada and Ceylon.

The Commonwealth Sugar Agreement has been extended for a further year and will now run to the end of 1963.

Locally, canes are purchased by factories on the basis of 2/3 of the extraction going to the grower under contracts which are subject to the control of the Central Board which functions as part of the organisation of the Department of Agriculture.

One of the major by-products of the sugar industry, alcohol, is produced in 3 distilleries. The production of alcohol amounted to 2,041,542 litres (94°G.L.) of which 32,050 litres were exported. 53,957 metric tons of molasses, another by-product of sugar manufacture, were also exported.

Industrial Crops

Three other crops are grown industrially, but on a small scale compared with sugarcane. These are tea, tobacco and ' aloe ' fibre.

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Tea

The Colony's total production of black tea for the year under review amounted to 1,340,026 English pounds, and a further 1,822 pounds of green tea were also produced. The black tea figure shows an increase of 197,039 pounds over that of the previous year. This is largely attributable to the maturing or coming into bearing of tea recently planted.

Exports, mainly to the United Kingdom, amounted to 374,217 pounds—as against 249,673 pounds in 1954 and 76,755 pounds in 1953. The internal market is substantial and it absorbed 967,631 pounds of tea.

With an average in bearing of 2,017·5 acres, the Colony's average yield per acre amounted to 665·1 pounds of made tea, compared with 510 pounds in 1954 and 440 pounds in 1953. Yields well in excess of 1,000 pounds per acre were, however, recorded in respect of young tea in its fifth year. It is considered that heavy crops will, in due course, be recorded in respect of hedge planted tea of approved strains now being established. Of the bearing acreage, some 607 acres are owned by non-manufacturing planters in small blocks, whilst about 107 acres are situated on Government properties. The remainder is the property of manufacturing estates.

The manufacturing estates comprise five self-contained properties of which the largest has 745 acres under tea. All five factories have been modernised of recent years, and two have undertaken construction of extension projects during the year under review.

The Government of Mauritius has shown considerable interest in the development of tea as a secondary industry during recent years, and an administrative section has been established with a small specialist staff. The Government has also established a small experimental station of some 70 acres under tea, and owns a plantation of about 200 acres in the Midlands valley, as well as seed-gardens.

A scheme to provide for the development of the tea industry in Mauritius is under consideration under the Capital Expenditure Programme 1955–60.

Tobacco

Tobacco was grown on 509 acres in 1955, a reduction of 157 acres as compared with 1954; most of this area was under the variety Amarello, the remainder being under flue-cured Virginian varieties. Production, which was not affected by any factor of exceptional character, reached 360,000 kilos.

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Tobacco is entirely grown in small plots, for the most part by Indian peasant cultivators. None of the tobacco is exported. On the contrary, a certain quantity—about 35 per cent—of Virginian flue-cured leaf is imported for admixture with local leaf for the manufacture of the better type of cigarette. Cigarettes of lower grades are made entirely of local Amarello leaf. Owing to soil and climate characteristics Mauritius is not likely to produce flue-cured Virginian tobacco of sufficiently good colour and aroma for export purposes.

The area annually grown is determined by the Tobacco Board, an officially constituted body, on which sit representatives of the various interests concerned. Closely connected with it is the Tobacco Warehouse which receives, grades, processes, bales, stores and sells all the tobacco produced in the Colony. Producers received on the average Rs 4.48 per kilo of flue-cured Amarello and Rs 5.18 per kilo of Virginian flue-cured tobacco; air-cured leaf sold at Rs 2.29 per kilo.

Fibre

Fibre is produced in Mauritius mainly from the " Furcraea Gigantea " plant also known as " Mauritian Hemp " or " Aloe ". It is a hard leaf fibre resembling Sisal which is also grown to some extent. Of a total of 17,800 acres in 1955, 96 per cent is Furcraea of which 85 per cent are wild growing plantations mainly along the drier coastal belt and 15 per cent regular plantations. The yield of a wild plantation is roughly reckoned at ½ ton of fibre per acre per year while that of a regular plantation is estimated at 1½ tons.

The fibre is extracted from the leaves by scraping in decorticators. These decorticators are of different types, but the majority are now modified versions of the " Raspador ". Although in the past leaf feeding to these machines was exclusively done by hand, mechanical feeding is being gradually adopted by an increasing number of factories as it dispenses with skilled labour, enables a greater output and produces a cleaner fibre. The green fibre obtained is washed and retted for 2 to 4 days after which it is washed, sun dried, brushed and baled.

During the last few years, fibre production averaged 2,000 tons a year, of which the greater part was absorbed by the Sack Factory for processing into bags for the transportation of sugar.

Forty fibre factories started operation at the beginning of 1955 but owing to the fall in fibre prices, by the end of the year only 21 factories found it economical enough to carry on. However, production amounted to about 1,500 tons.

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The Sack Factory, which has now been enlarged to produce 3,000,000 bags annually, absorbed 2,937 tons of brushed fibre and tow for the production of 2,687,189 bags each weighing 955 grams (80 kgs. capacity), 64,327 yards of filter cloth and 5·2 tons of yarn for the manufacture of local ropes.

In the past, brushed and unbrushed fibre were used at the Sack Factory but as a result of extensive experiments only brushed fibre and good tow are now processed.

All the fibre produced in the Island is handled by the Mauritius Hemp Producers Syndicate, which grades, bales, stores and sells the fibre. For the Sack Factory the fibre is graded as "Very Good", or "Good", or "Tow" and all fibre has to be brushed. Until recently the surplus fibre not absorbed by the Sack Factory found a ready market abroad, but owing to the fall in price of jute no overseas buyer has been found for Mauritius fibre for the last few years.

Food Crops

Mauritius imports most of its food requirements. A certain amount of subsidiary foodstuffs and all the protective foods, mostly vegetables and fresh fruits, are locally produced.

Foodcrops were harvested over an area of about 5,584 arpents (one arpent is equivalent to 1·043 acres) during the year and yielded approximately 10,000 tons of marketable produce, chiefly vegetables, potatoes and maize. There was a marked drop in the potato crop owing to a severe and widespread attack of blight which was difficult to control owing to unfavourable weather conditions and a dearth of fungicidal products on the market.

Practical demonstrations of the use of fertilisers and of methods of crop protection have been carried out in various localities. Improvements observed in crop yields suggest that they have met with a fair measure of success. Two permanent demonstration plots were run during the year in addition to the 55 temporary plots laid out on farmers' lands for the demonstration of the use of fertilizers on foodcrops and vegetables.

The agricultural equipment belonging to the former Food Production Board which was transferred in 1954 to the Sugar Planters' Mechanical Agricultural Pool, an organisation which has been formed to assist planters towards fuller mechanisation and is maintained by funds obtained from the Sugar Industry Rehabilitation Fund established under the Sugar Industry Reserve Funds Ordinance, continued to be available to the Department of Agriculture for use on its experimental stations and development projects, as well as for the clearing of Crown Lands leased for foodcrop cultivation.

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Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture consists of 12 divisions with a Director and two Deputy Directors in charge. The full staff of both permanent and temporary officers numbers 217. There are at present 16 vacancies.

Staff as at 31st December, 1955

Division	*Present staff*	*No. of Vacancies*
Administrative Division	14	—
Agricultural Division	48	5
Livestock Division	36	2
Tea Research Division	9	1
Plant Pathology Division	4	1
Entomological Division	6	1
Agricultural Chemistry Division	3	—
Engineering Division	10	1
Central Board Division	12	2
Agricultural College Division	8	2
Rodrigues Division (attached to Agricultural Division) ...	5	1
Fisheries Division	62	—
TOTAL	217	16

The policy of the Agricultural Department is to promote the most efficient use of all lands available for and capable of cultivation and to foster the most efficient production of livestock and livestock products.

The basis of Mauritius agriculture is sugarcane which covers most of the available arable land. But there are areas in certain parts of the island which are not specially suited for sugarcane and these are under close study for the development of other crops such as tea, fibre and pasture, which fit particularly well into the ecological picture: tea and grass in the high rainfall zone, fibre and fodder in the drier regions. Tobacco, now a well-established secondary industry producing for local consumption only, is also catered for. In addition to crops, the Department is actively engaged in the improvement of livestock, mainly with the object of increasing the island's milk production. Attention is given also to the improvement of small stock and of poultry.

The attainment of greater self-sufficiency in foodcrops, vegetables and fruits is also part of the agricultural policy, although there are definite limitations in this direction.

LIVESTOCK DIVISION

The last census made in 1950, gave the following figures:—

Bovines	40,282
Goats	53,561
Sheep	2,013
Pigs	4,000

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Of the 40,000 bovines, 32,000 are of milking type owned mainly by peasant breeders. The old "*Creole*" or local milk breed has been extensively crossed with bulls of the Friesland breed as a result of an artificial insemination service being made available free of charge over the whole Island. This has proved popular with the cow-owners, but this grading up policy is now coming up for review in view of the excellence *per se* of the Creole breed. The remaining 8,000 head of cattle are of Zebu origin and are used either for production of manure on the sugar estates or for haulage work.

The goats are of mixed types and are usually kept by peasants for slaughter only. The introduction of the imported pure-bred Anglo-Nubian bucks in the flocks has increased the size of the cross-breds but has not increased the milk produced to the extent that the crosses could be economically bred for milk production.

Amongst the sheep the Black-Head Persian breed now predominates but sheep do not thrive well in the colony due to their susceptibility to parasites.

The pigs kept by the peasant are degenerate descendants of European breeds introduced in the past, and largely subsist by scavenging. Recently, however, a few breeders have imported pigs of the Large White breed and these are doing quite well.

Poultry are increasingly kept on the island and egg production is a growing industry. The peasants keep mainly a local bird of good type for the table but a poor layer of small eggs. These birds are raised on the open range for the most part. A new development, however, is the importation of day-old chicks by air-transport, mostly from South Africa, and many thousands of pure bred chicks, mainly White Leghorns, are now being reared. The deep litter system of intensive production is becoming very popular with the farmers who can find the capital required, and is proving most satisfactory.

The number of cattle imported from Madagascar for slaughter increased during the year. In consequence, fewer locally produced cattle of the milk breed were slaughtered and the Island's reserve is therefore higher. The total number slaughtered from all sources remained the same at about 12,000. The number of goats slaughtered is about 40,000 per annum.

The Government maintains an experimental dairy in the uplands, and a breeding and improvement centre on the coast. A feature of this year's work has been extensive feeding-trials with

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ureated molasses in the form of a mixture of molasses, bagasse and 2–3 per cent urea. As a partial substitute for the expensive imported concentrates, it has proved highly satisfactory. By this means, it is hoped that the peasant cow-owner will be able, if the experiments are entirely successful, to increase his milk yield at a more moderate cost.

The loss to the poultry industry caused by outbreaks of Newcastle Disease has been successfully checked by the introduction of a vaccine. This is now prepared in the Colony and its widespread use today has without doubt prevented severe losses.

Fisheries

During the year the Department has given considerable attention to an aspect of production quite new to Mauritius, namely, the farming of fish for the production of food rich in protein which is so markedly deficient in the diet of most classes of the population.

Principal Fishing Areas and Methods

Fishing is practised in the lagoon surrounding most of the island, which covers an area of about 95 square miles and off shore on the shelf, to the 100 fathoms line, which is extensive in the northern part forming a bank of about 200 square miles with an average depth of 35 fathoms. About 1,800 fishermen with some 900 light fishing boats and a number of deep-sea pinnaces are engaged in fishing the 2,000 tons which form the average annual catch. An interesting trend is the larger number of pinnaces equipped with marine engines for off-shore fishing. This has been fostered by the issue of Government loans made under the Development and Welfare programme for the purchase of marine engines. Concurrently, a number of lagoon fishermen have been equipping their light craft with 3½ h.p. outboard motors without outside assistance. These developments should eventually result in a greater supply of fish to the population and a more congenial occupation for the people engaged in the fishing industry.

Usually middlemen supply crafts and gear to the fishermen who in return bring their catch at an agreed price. The middlemen is expected to make advances during periods of forced idleness. It appears that an increasing number of fishermen are freeing themselves from debt.

The local catch is entirely consumed locally. The price varies with the abundance of fish; it is generally lower during the summer months when more fish is caught.

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The control of the Mauritius fisheries is exercised by a Fisheries Branch placed under the Director of Agriculture. This consists of a Fisheries Officer and an inspectorate of 59 inspectors and guards who are responsible for the enforcement of the laws regulating fisheries, the collection and establishment of statistics, and the study and implementation of all new measures which might be recommended for the better protection of the stock or to improve the efficiency, of the industry, or for the welfare of the fishing community.

The Board of Agriculture, Fisheries and Natural Resources studies all matters of policy and makes recommendations.

FORESTRY

Areas of different types of forest. The statement below gives particulars of the different types of forested areas in Mauritius:

Crown Forest Estate

Classification	*Acreage*	*Total area in acres*
(i) Protected native forests (National Reserves) ...	4,520	
(ii) Productive forests, including plantations of exotics	23,859	
(iii) Catchment areas (Protected)	10,602	
(iv) Mountain Reserves (Protected)	23,424	
(v) Miscellaneous (Areas leased and not devoted to forestry)	4,745	
		67,150

Leased Crown Lands in the Coastal belt of 250 (French) feet (Pas Géométriques)

(i) Tree Plantations (mainly Casuarina equisetifolia) ...	4,400	
(ii) Rocky grazing lands with trees	1,100	
		5,500

Privately owned forested lands

(i) Mountain Reserves (ii) River Reserves } Protected by law	9,000 6,500	
		15,500
(iii) Forest Lands (iv) Scrub ,, } Not protected by law	5,800 93,900	
		99,700
TOTAL =		120,700
GRAND TOTAL =		187,850

Policy and methods of management

The Crown Forest Estate. The Forest Policy of the Government of Mauritius may be briefly summarised as follows:

(i) To reserve in perpetuity sufficient land either already forested or capable of afforestation in order to safeguard and maintain water supplies, preserve the climatic and physical conditions of the Colony, prevent erosion and

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the silting up of reservoirs, provide forest produce for domestic, agricultural and industrial requirements and to maintain soil stability where the land is liable to deterioration if put to other uses;

(ii) to manage this Forest Estate so as to obtain the best returns on its capital value and the expenses of management, in so far as such returns are consistent with the primary aims set out above;

(iii) to set aside in perpetuity as ' National Reserves ' suitable areas of the native forests of Mauritius and to preserve such areas in their natural state by controlling, and preventing, if possible, the intrusion and establishment of other-than-native trees and plants;

(iv) to encourage and assist the practice of sound forestry by private enterprise, and to educate selected Mauritians in technical forestry.

In regard to the Crown Forest Estate, it has not yet been found possible to undertake the essential preliminary operations upon which must be based a Working Plan for the forests of Mauritius setting out the detailed manner in which the forests will be managed so that they may produce a sustained annual yield of produce in perpetuity and in conformity with the policy outlined above. Until the Working Plan is prepared and approved, all operations must be conducted on a year-to-year basis.

(c) Organisation of the forestry industry. The Forest Department is directly responsible for the management of the Crown Forest Estate; all silvicultural and exploitation operations within it are conducted by the department which is directly exploiting, converting and selling all forest produce deriving from it. Privately owned forested lands other than those protected by law are ' managed ' by individual owners, and in the course of the year under review many owners have undertaken quite extensive replanting operations. All forest produce deriving from exploitation operations is consumed locally.

Within privately owned forested lands protected by law i.e. Mountain and River Reserves, no felling or forestry operations of any kind may be carried out without the approval of Government, such approval being given only in exceptional circumstances and as a general rule is restricted to the removal of dead and fallen timber.

(d) Initial processing of timber, sawmills. Felling and logging is carried out by means of the saw and the axe. The preference of the professional woodcutter for working on his own is very marked

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and the use of the axe, rather than saw and axe combined in felling—logging operations, preponderates and results in much avoidable waste. Several types of cross cutting saw have been introduced and demonstrated but so far attempts to persuade woodcutters to work in teams have been unsuccessful. Timber is manhandled from stump to roadside and from there transported by lorries to sawmills of which there are 48 in the Island, the majority inadequately powered.

(e) Marketing of produce. Timber from the Crown Forest Estate is sold either in the round or in converted form at the three Government Timber Stores at Port Louis, Rose Hill and Curepipe, these Timber Stores being managed by the Department. Fuel from the Crown Forest Estate is converted departmentally and sold in the forests to individual purchasers who remove it by lorry. A considerable quantity of fuel is converted into charcoal in the forests, the finished product being removed to and sold at Government Timber Stores.

Produce from privately owned forests is generally sold standing to dealers in timber, firewood and charcoal, but some owners conduct their own exploitation operations.

The retail prices of forest produce from the Crown Forest Estate are appreciably lower than those charged by private traders and sawmillers.

Forest Produce Exploited from Crown Forest Estate. The following tables give particulars of forest produce exploited on Crown Forest Lands during 1955:

	Cubic feet Log Volume
(a) Hardwoods :	
(i) Eucalyptus	168,852.49
(ii) Camphor (*Camphora Officianarum*)	698.02
(iii) Tecoma (*Tabebuia pallida*)	9,422.56
(iv) Filao (*Casuarina equisetifolia*)	6,572.77
(v) Native species (*several*)	14,571.32
(vi) Others	25,174.35
TOTAL HARDWOODS=	225,291.51

	Cubic feet Log Volume
(b) Softwoods :	
(i) *Pinus taeda, caribea (coniferous) & sinensis spp.* ...	65,522.36
(ii) *Juniperus Bedfordiana*	4,827.31
(iii) *Cryplomeria Japonica*	24,999.30
(iv) *Araucaria*	238.09
TOTAL SOFTWOODS=	95,587.06
GRAND TOTAL HARDWOODS AND SOFTWOODS=	320,878.57

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(c) Firewood and charcoal. During 1955, 21,234 *' cordes '* of firewood, each of 50 stacked cubic feet (equivalent to 1,061,700 cubic feet solid) together with 165,120 kgms of charcoal were produced in the Crown Forest Estate.

From privately owned forests and leased Crown Lands

(i) *Timber.* An estimated volume of some 200,000 cubic feet of round timber, principally *' filao '* and eucalyptus was produced. (Accurate figures are not available).

(ii) *Firewood and charcoal.* An estimated 5,308 *' cordes '* of firewood (265,400 cubic feet solid) and 800,000 kgms of charcoal were produced.

The Forest Department

The permanent establishment of the department consists of 150 posts.

Temporary establishment. For the day-to-day conduct of forestry operations the Department employed during 1955 a labour force of approximately 1,100 labourers. These were employed at Forest Department Nurseries and at Government Timber Stores, and on silvicultural, exploitation and surveying operations, the cutting of timber and fuel and in the manufacture of charcoal.

Organization of the Department. The smallest administrative unit in the management of the Crown Forest Estate is the Forest Section which is under the control of a Forester, assisted by one or more Forest Guards. A number of Forest Sections constitute a Forest Range, administered by a Forest Range Officer with the assistance of one or more Deputy Forest Rangers. Two or more Forest Ranges constitute a Division which is administered by a Divisional Forest Assistant, under the general control of the Conservator of Forests. Two Assistant Conservators of Forests are employed on technical forestry operations, and the recently appointed Deputy Conservator of Forests assists the Conservator of Forests in his administrative duties.

Labour Supply. In the purely silvicultural operations undertaken by the Department, the Labour Force employed is almost wholly Indo-Mauritian, but amongst the ranks of sawyers and woodcutters employed on piece-work rates a high proportion of *'Creoles'* continues to be employed. The percentage of *' Creoles '* is increasing however, in the ranks of nursery labourers and workers employed on silvicultural and allied operations.

Cyclones. No major cyclones traversed the island during 1955.

Imports of timber. During 1955, a total of 543,545 cubic feet of converted timber (including 9,643.50 cubic feet of shingles) of a

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gross value of Rs 3,329,468 was imported into the Colony, mainly from Malaya, Siam and Australia. Imported timber is used mainly in building construction. There is a marked local prejudice in its favour owing to its superior finish.

Food Production. Damage by deer, pigs and monkeys in the upland forest zones restricts the application of the *'taungya'* system to forest plantations within the lower and warmer elevations and the coastal belt.

Protection. The 4,520 acres of National Reserves continued to receive full attention. The experimental plots laid out in them to establish the best means of controlling exotics and at the same time foster the regeneration of native species are now showing gratifying results.

The experimental timber plantations created on the lower slopes of Signal Mountain were satisfactorily protected against fire. These plantations are surrounded by grass lands which are annually fired: two fires crossed into the rigidly protected areas but were brought under control before they could enter the plantations.

No serious damage to Eucalyptus crops by the Curculionid beetle (Gonipterus Scutellatus) was reported.

Tea Cultivation. The cultivation of tea in Crown Lands "Wooton" and "Midlands" was extended; the Forest Department assisted the Tea Officer in the initial clearance of the areas.

Silviculture. A total area of 1,132 acres was newly planted during the year, principally with: Eucalyptus robusta, umbellata, citriodora and Hybrid; Pinus taeda and caribaea; D. Latifolia; Swietenia Mahogany; Cinnamomum Camphora; Araucaria Cookii; Agathis Robusta. In addition some 3,355.08 acres of plantations of from 5–20 years of age were treated culturally under weeding, cleaning, thinning and pruning operations.

Output of forest produce

The statement below gives the estimated volume, in the round (log volume) of timber and forest produce produced or imported into Mauritius during 1955, and of other minor forest produce.

(*i*) *Major Forest Produce (Timber):*

(*A*) *Local Production*	*Cubic ft (solid)*
(*a*) Production from Crown Forests	317,879
(*b*) Production from unleased Pas Geometriques ..	1,000
(*c*) Production from privately owned Forests and leased Pas Geometriques	200,000
TOTAL ...	518,879
(*d*) Imports from 1st January to 30th September 1955 (sawn timber 543,545 cubic feet)	1,087,090
GRAND TOTAL ...	1,605,969

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(*ii*) *Minor Forest Produce :*

	Cubic feet (solid)
(*a*) Firewood from Crown Forest Lands (stacked) cordes of 50 cubic feet	1,061,700
(*b*) Firewood from privately owned Forest Lands or leased Crown Lands estimated 5,308 cordes stacked of 50 cubic feet	265,400
TOTAL ...	1,327,100
	Kgms.
(*c*) Charcoal from Crown Forest Lands	800,000
(*d*) Charcoal from privately owned forested lands or leased Crown Lands	165,120
TOTAL ...	965,120

Revenue and Expenditure. During the financial year 1954–55 the Department was responsible for an expenditure of Rs 2,411,817. The revenue derived by the Department from the sale of forest produce and shooting and fishing leases during the same period amounted to Rs 1,235,348.

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

The co-operative movement in Mauritius and Rodrigues comprises the Department of Co-operation, four secondary societies consisting of the Mauritius Co-operative Union Ltd, the Mauritius Co-operative Agricultural Federation Ltd, the Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Ltd, the Mauritius Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd, and, 289 primary societies, comprising 153 credit societies of unlimited liability, 3 credit societies of limited liability, 37 thrift and savings societies, 16 school savings banks, 67 co-operative retail stores, 1 marketing society, 2 housing societies, 1 printing society, 8 transport societies and 1 better living society. During the year 1955, 7 societies were registered and the registration of 4 societies was cancelled.

The Department of Co-operation is responsible for registration, audit, supervision, education in co-operative activities, arbitration and, when necessary, cancellation of registration. The main effort of the Department continued to be directed towards consolidation rather than expansion and to raising standards of management and bookkeeping, especially in the co-operative stores societies. Besides the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and Deputy, the staff included 10 field officers.

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The Mauritius Co-operative Union Ltd at the end of the year had a membership of 191 societies. Its objects, among others, are to promote co-operation, to bring together co-operative institutions for a common endeavour, to assist with supervision and audit, to promote education in co-operative activities and to represent the movement. During the year the Union sold stationery to societies, arranged film shows, organised a Co-operators Day as part of a Welfare Month and advised stores societies. Its field staff consisting of a secretary-supervisor and eight supervisors were under the control of the Department of Co-operation and proved of great assistance. In 1955 the Union's revenue amounted to Rs67,521 made up of audit fees and contributions of societies and a Government grant-in-aid of Rs 30,000 payable for five years from 1954. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies is *ex-officio* the President of the Union and of its Central and Executive Committees. The Deputy and 2 Co-operative Officers are *ex-officio* members of the Union.

The Mauritius Agricultural Federation Ltd with a membership of 126 societies, acts on behalf of its societies in agricultural matters and for this purpose retains the part time services of a barrister and of a firm of Chartered Accountants. During the year representations by the Federation and other small planter organisations led to improvements in the cane testing services of the Cane Planters and Millers Central Arbitration and Control Board. The Federation is represented on a number of Government boards and committees. Its staff consists of a secretary and an assistant secretary.

The Mauritius Co-operative Central Bank Ltd at the end of the year had a membership of 144 societies, a share capital of Rs285,425, reserves of Rs 290,567 and deposits of Rs 1,920,592. Loans issued in 1955, at 6 per cent interest p.a., totalled Rs 3,442,848; loans overdue at the end of the year amounted to Rs 3,339. Loans to member societies, consisting mainly of cane growers, are secured by a lien on the societies' sugar, all of which is sold through the Bank's Secretary Manager who is also the Bank's broker.

The Mauritius Co-operative Wholesale Society Ltd., with 68 member societies, had a turnover for the year ended 31st December 1955 of Rs 3,636,813. Stock at that date was Rs 246,446. The society's share capital was Rs 68,200 and reserves amounted to Rs 31,502. Both the society and its member retail stores benefited from the increased volume of direct imports from overseas. During the year control over stock was considerably tightened and improved.

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Credit Societies of Unlimited Liability

At the end of the year there were 133 credit societies of unlimited liability in Mauritius and 20 in Rodrigues, with a total of 8,772 members. The majority of the members of the Mauritius societies are cane growers while those of the Rodrigues societies are mainly engaged in subsistence farming. In 1955, loans of Mauritius societies to members totalled Rs 4,478,673, and were secured by sureties and a lien on the crop. Payments to members for cane marketed through the agency of their societies amounted to Rs 13 million. It is encouraging to note that deposits of members rose from Rs 157,000 to Rs 192,476. Share Capital and Reserve Funds of the societies were Rs 451,502 and Rs 852,294 respectively.

Credit Societies of Limited Liability

The three credit societies of limited liability, whose 61 members are fishermen, issued loans totalling Rs 2,999 during the year. A new development was the co-operative marketing of fish caught in the large '*seine*' acquired by one of the societies.

Thrift and Savings Societies

There were 37 thrift and savings societies at the end of 1955, with a membership of 2,524 and savings of Rs 409,062. The Union Thrift and Savings Society Ltd., open to members of the staffs of the secondary societies and of the Department, became the second thrift society to have salary earners as members and deductions for savings at source—the first being the Mauritius Police Co-operative Thrift Society Ltd.

School Savings Banks

One school savings bank was registered in 1955 bringing the total to 16 with a total membership of 3,960. By the end of the year savings amounted to Rs 40,983 as compared with Rs 28,893 in 1954. The banks are popular with parents and children and receive good support from teachers. The Co-operative Central Bank supplies books free of charge from its Education Fund and, as a special concession to help the banks build up funds for communal activities, pays interest at 3½ per cent on their deposits. Arrangements were made at the end of the year by the Department of Education to appoint teachers as internal auditors so that, by partly relieving the Department of Co-operation of checking work, more school banks could be formed.

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Co-operative Retail Stores

At the end of 1955 there were 67 co-operative retail stores with a membership of 10,751 and a turnover of Rs 4,834,830. The majority of societies operated successfully, but a few suffered losses through defalcations, bad management and excessive credit sales. In addition to the usual bad debts reserve, all societies are building up, by allocation of surplus, what is termed a mutual aid fund. Once the fund reaches the required level the by-laws are amended to allow credit sales up to the amount of the fund on the basis of a maximum credit limit for each member. In this way the fund serves as a buffer against losses on credit sales and makes up for capital tied up in debts.

Marketing Societies

As a result of difficulty in disposing of members' ginger to local dealers the ginger marketing society of 378 members resolved, in December, to appoint an agent to sell the ginger on oversea markets. The registration of the milk marketing society, which ceased to operate in May, was cancelled. A new development was the decision, at the end of the year, by tea planters to form marketing societies with the ultimate object of acquiring a co-operative tea factory.

Housing Societies

There are 2 housing societies with a total membership of 160, share capital of Rs 2,010 and deposits of Rs 3,500. At present the societies are financed by a Government loan. One of the societies had lent Rs 17,000 to members for the building of two houses. The other society had approved loans to two members but the legal formalities, necessary before the loans could be made, had not been completed by the end of the year.

Printing Society

The co-operative printing society with 830 members, a share capital of Rs 27,529 and a printing press in Port Louis carried out Rs 35,800 worth of printing business during the year and made the most of its old equipment.

Transport Societies

The number of co-operative transport societies increased from 7 to 8 and membership from 340 to 402. Paid up shares on the 31st December 1955 amounted to Rs 112,785. About 20,360 tons of sugar cane were transported from fields to factories during the 1955 crop. Expenditure of a capital nature by these societies is reimbursed from the Sugar Planters Rehabilitation Fund.

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Better Living Society

One co-operative better living society with 57 members is operating in Long Mountain. It has a kindergarten school for about 50 four-year old children and a sewing and dressmaking class for women. The kindergarten school is assisted by a small grant from the Village Council.

Educational Activities

A Co-operative Officer followed a Colonial Course at the Co-operative College of Loughborough during the year. He was reported to have done very well. New developments were the holdding of a full time two weeks course in co-operative and allied subjects for junior Co-operative Officers and Union Supervisors and the voluntary enlistment by these Co-operative Officers and Supervisors in book-keeping and other correspondence courses of the Co-operative College, Loughborough.

TABLE

The following table give an indication of progress made over three years:—

	1953	*1954*	*1955*
Total Societies	275	290	293
Total Members	23,431	26,421	28,424
Total Turnover ... Rs. ...	28,799,915	31,910,051	33,691,453*
Share Capital ... Rs. ...	863,566	1,071,918	1,161,096
Reserve Funds .. Rs. ...	809,202	1,127,285	1,394,248
Other Funds ... Rs. ...	53,345	93,017	162,508
Government loans to Societies ... Rs. ...	24,915	18,875	32,065
Total Assets .. Rs. ...	7,666,074	7,586,529	8,937,693

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

Apart from the sugar, tea, tobacco and fibre industries discussed above, local industries of lesser importance comprise the manufacture of rum and wine, oil and soap, cigarettes, matches, aerated beverages, dairy produce, salt, lime and bricks.

Various small trades, including printing, tanneries, mechanical and electrical workshops flourish in the Colony.

The possibilities of producing cement from sand and trachytes, and pulp and paper from *bagasse* have been investigated but the economics of these projects are still under consideration.

The Customs Tariff Ordinance provides for exemptions from import duty in respect of machinery and apparatus intended solely for use in factories for the manufacture or preparation of most of the commodities which are produced in the Colony.

*For the year ended 28th February 1955

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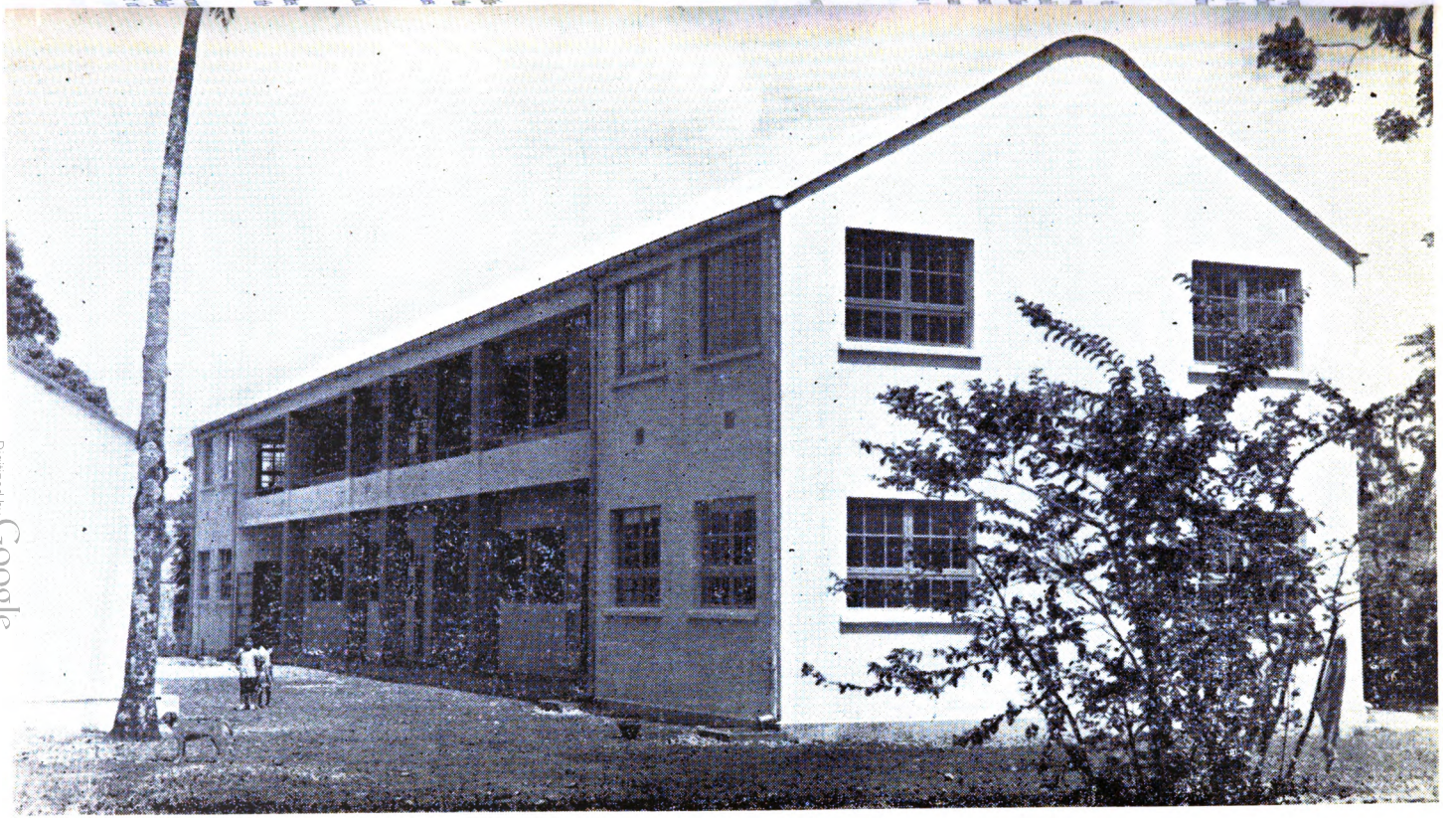

A NEW GOVERNMENT PRIMARY SCHOOL AT REUNION ROAD, VACOAS

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Chapter 7: Social Services

Education

Organization

The Education Department is the biggest of the 37 departments which form the administrative machinery of the Government of Mauritius. It is made up of seven divisions, with a staff which is slightly in excess of 3,000. The Department is administered by a headquarters staff of 44 consisting of a Director, a Deputy Director, two Assistant Directors, a number of Organizers, and a clerical staff. At the Rose Hill headquarters are also housed the staffs of the Visual Education branch, the School Medical Service and the Primary Schools Inspectorate. The other senior members of the staff on the assistant directorial level are the Principals of the three Government secondary schools and of the Teachers' Training College.

The Director is assisted by a number of Standing Advisory Committees: the most important of these is the Education Committee, whose duty is to advise on questions connected with education in the Colony.

Educational Facilities

The following statistics refer to the position on the 31st October 1955. At that date there were 155 primary schools providing free education to 73,510 pupils. Of these schools 79 are maintained by Government and 76 are aided. The latter are divided among four Educational Authorities as follows:—Roman Catholic—52 schools; Church of England—17 schools; Hindu—5 schools; and Muslim—2 schools. There were, in addition, 160 unaided schools registered with the Department with a roll of 11,940 children. This number, which includes the children in the primary sections of the secondary schools, brings the total number of children receiving primary education in 1955 to 85,450 as compared with 80,765 in the previous year. Of this total 48,723 were boys and 36,727 girls.

Teachers in aided schools are paid by the Department and are appointed, transferred and promoted by the Director on the recommendation of the Authority concerned. In 1952 each Educational Authority set up an Appointments' and Promotions' Board, consisting of three representatives of the Authority and two of the Education Department, to settle questions of teachers' appointment and promotion. A Primary Schools Promotion Board was set up at the same time for teachers in Government service.

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In primary education the English pattern is followed, generally speaking, subject to adjustments to meet local conditions. Primary education is free and includes the issue of basic text books without charge.

A total of 118 Government scholarships are available either on a competitive basis or by award to needy and deserving pupils. These scholarships, which provide free secondary education, free travelling, text books on favourable terms and a small money grant, are tenable at either government or aided secondary schools.

Secondary education is almost exclusively of the grammar school type, leading to University courses. Government schools can meet only part of the demand and since 1951 the Department has been subsidizing a number of private schools which can offer satisfactory guarantees of proper schooling up to School Certificate or Higher School Certificate level. There were, on the 31st October 1,076 pupils in the three Government secondary schools, 2,070 in the subsidized schools known in Mauritius as " Aided Secondary Schools ", and 7,082 in the unaided secondary schools. This total of 10,228 secondary pupils was made up of 6,911 boys and 3,317 girls. The 65 secondary schools comprised 3 government, 8 aided and 54 unaided schools.

Apart from the College of Agriculture, there are no institutions in the Colony which can provide full-time post-secondary education, and students wishing to follow University and other post-secondary courses have to go overseas. There were 308 students following courses in institutions of higher education in the United Kingdom and Eire, and 8 Government scholars on the Continent.

There is a Teachers' Training College in Beau Bassin, through which all those seeking permanent service in the Government and Aided primary schools must pass. The normal course is of two years' duration, but this has had to be supplemented by short courses of six months' duration to cope with the demand for new teachers. During the year, 286 students were in training, including 184 long course (104 men and 80 women), 82 short course (all women) and 20 teachers following a year's in-service training in handicrafts.

The greatest problem with which the Department has to cope is the increasing number of children of school-going age and the consequential rising demand for school places. Policy has necessarily been influenced both by this pressing demand for more school places and by the need for instruction in practical forms of edu-

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cation. There is an urgent need for more schools and more teachers, and steps are being taken to meet the situation within the limits of the country's resources.

Four primary schools were opened in rented buildings at the beginning of the year while seven Government primary schools were under construction throughout the year for opening in 1956. The Roman Catholic and Church of England Education Authorities also pursued their school rebuilding schemes which receive Government aid on the basis of a two-thirds grant of the capital expenditure incurred by the Authority or of the additional rent payable by the Authority to landlords. The amount of capital grant-in-aid involved has averaged Rs 500,000 in recent years. Fully-equipped handicraft centres have now been provided in 26 Government and Aided primary schools, at the two Government secondary schools for boys and at the Training College which has two centres. A fully equipped homecraft centre was opened at Queen Elizabeth College, the Government secondary school for girls, and good progress was made on phase two of the building scheme, involving the laboratory block, lecture rooms, library and administration sections of the College. Work was begun at the Training College on the Assembly Hall and Lecture Theatre. Plans have been prepared for the rebuilding of the Royal College School, on the outskirts of Port Louis.

Youth Organizations

The work of the officers posted in the rural areas began to bear fruit in 1955. In the north of the Colony the 46 youth clubs functioning there have grouped themselves into an active Northern Clubs Association, and there are indications that similar associations will emerge in the other districts. There are now 183 boys' organizations affiliated to Youth House and 68 girls' organizations. The full facilities of Youth House are also available to the Scout and Guide movements numbering 35 Scout troops, 25 Guide companies, 11 Bluebird packs, 1 Sea Ranger crew and 1 Cadet company. The total number of young people associated with Youth House is now approximately 12,500.

The activities of the youth organizations include camping, games, tournaments, courses of instruction in drama, annual drama festivals, and training in first-aid, life-saving and youth leadership. In 1955 training on the basis of the famous " Outward Bound " schools in the United Kingdom was introduced, with encouraging

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success. A residential National Leaders' Conference was held for the first time, and was attended by 32 young women and 67 young men prominent in the youth life of the Colony.

Exchange visits with Madagascar continued. Four girls and two boys, delegates from Madagascar Youth Organizations, arrived in August.

School Health Service

The School Health Service falls into two divisions: medical and dental. The staff comprises one School Medical Officer, three nurses, three dentists with one clinical assistant each, and one Nutrition and Health Assistant.

Entrants into all Government and Aided primary schools and into Government secondary schools are medically examined. Free medical treatment is provided for primary school pupils.

The school nurses carry out cleanliness and health surveys (including distance vision testing) in the primary schools. Free treatment is provided for head infestation.

The duties of the Nutrition and Health Assistant consist chiefly in giving talks to senior pupils in primary schools and to mothers of school children, in weighing, measuring pupils, and in rendering assistance in connection with the School Milk Scheme, whereby all primary school children are eligible for a free ration of 200 ccs of milk at school daily. In addition, those requiring them receive yeast tablets or halibut oil capsules. In 1955, a total of 3,500,000 yeast tablets were issued free to school children on instructions from the School Medical Officer.

A Mobile School Clinic fully equipped for medical, cleansing and nutrition work visits all the primary schools.

School Dental Service

The service treats primary school pupils only; but talks and demonstrations on oral hygiene are given in most schools by the Government dentists and teeth-cleaning drills are held regularly. Toothbrushes at a subsidised price are available for sale to pupils at primary schools.

Handicrafts

Increasing emphasis is placed on the teaching of handicrafts in Government and Aided primary schools and in the Government secondary schools.

In 1955 four new handicraft centres were opened in primary schools, bringing the total now in operation to thirty.

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Bookcraft is taught to children of Standards IV to VI and woodwork and metalwork to boys of Standard VI. A four-year course in needlework for girls is now in force in all schools, and at certain schools basketry is also taught to them.

Visual Aids

During 1955 there was less activity in the production of visual aids material, owing to the school broadcasting service being entrusted to the Visual Education Organizer pending the recruitment of a suitable Schools Broadcasting Officer. Nevertheless, 650 film shows were given to primary schools and 199 to secondary schools. A new project was successfully launched in collaboration with a South African film-renting company, from which 16 mm versions of English language commercial films with an educational bias are received by air for distribution to film clubs formed within secondary schools and youth organizations. Members pay 25 cents a show, and the fees thus collected have so far counterbalanced the cost of operating the scheme.

Broadcasts for Schools

Despite the lack of a full-time Schools Broadcasting Officer referred to above, broadcasts were given to primary schools throughout the school year on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and to secondary schools on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The primary schools broadcasts consisted of locally produced English lessons, a series " Things we use " and a weekly news magazine; and the broadcasts to secondary schools of B.B.C. recordings on English literature and citizenship. At the end of the third term Shakespeare's " ***Macbeth*** " was broadcast in full to the secondary schools.

Further Education

Post-primary continuation classes were organized at 23 centres with a total enrolment of 445 pupils. This number fell, however, in the course of the year and 4 centres were closed. This dropping off in interest is most discouraging, particularly when it is remembered that the classes are free.

Post-secondary continuation classes provide instruction on a fee-paying basis in commercial subjects with a view to those enrolled taking the London Chamber of Commerce examinations, and also in art, book-binding, woodwork and weaving for general interest. Attendance at these classes was much more regular than at the post-primary classes.

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Science Extension classes provide laboratory facilities for students reading for the G.C.E., Intermediate and Final B.Sc. examinations, and for local examinations in Pharmacy. The subjects studied are Physics, Chemistry and Biology. In 1955 there were 131 students during the first term, 122 in the second and 100 in the third terms.

Grants were made in 1955 to the four town councils, three District Councils, the four Educational Authorities, the Roman Catholic Adult Education Organization and the Hindu Arya Sabha to enable them to organise adult literacy classes.

Expenditure

Expenditure on education incurred under the Education Department Head of the Estimates during the financial year 1954–55 amounted to Rs 12,768,609 to which may be added Rs 522,181 spent by the Agricultural, Health and Prisons Departments on education services under their control. This brings the total ascertainable Government expenditure on education to Rs 13,290,790 out of the total Government expenditure of Rs 115,071,316.

Public Health

The medical services are administered by a Director of Medical Services, assisted by two deputies. They are organised into nine divisions and form one of the largest departments of Government. The health services have appreciably expanded in recent years and there are plans for a further degree of expansion and development.

Functions of the Health Department

The functions of the Medical and Health Department are:

(a) to investigate the influence of social, environmental and domestic factors on the incidence of human disease and disability;

(b) to plan and carry out measures for the promotion of health;

(c) to institute and maintain measures for the prevention of disease;

(d) to provide a quarantine service to prevent the introduction of infectious diseases by sea or air;

(e) to provide facilities for treatment of disease, including mental disease, by maintenance of hospital and dispensary services;

(f) to make provision for the rehabilitation of the disabled;

(g) to control the practice of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy;

(h) to provide facilities for the training of nurses, midwives, sanitary officers;

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(i) to advise local authorities regarding their health services and to inspect those services;

(j) to prepare and publish reports and statistical or other information relating to health.

General Health

Health conditions continued to improve and the year 1955 witnessed substantial achievements throughout the field of public health, as indicated by the following statistics:

Year	*Birth rate per °/₀₀*	*Death rate per °/₀₀*	*Infant Mortality rate per °/₀₀*	*Maternal Mortality rate per °/₀₀*
1938 ...	33·4	29·9	162·7	11·38
1943 ...	33·1	25·9	141·5	5·14
1950 ...	49·7	13·9	76·3	3·51
1955 ...	41·8	12·9	67·2	1·47

The main factors responsible for bringing about such striking improvements have been the progressive elimination of malaria as a result of an island-wide campaign, the higher standard of environmental hygiene, the absence of severe cyclones and droughts during the past eleven years and the relative economic prosperity of the island.

Malaria

Malaria which up to 1945 occupied the first place amongst causes of mortality now ranks with the minor causes and the figures shown below indicate the remarkable fall in the death rate due to malaria:

Year	*Deaths ascribed to malaria*	*Rate per 0/00 population*	*Percentage of deaths due to malaria to total deaths*
1945 ...	3,534	8·34	23·13
1948 ...	1,580	3·58	15·02
1951 ...	285	0·59	3·95
1952 ...	188	0·37	2·52
1953 ...	61	0·12	0·73
1954 ...	27	0·05	0·32
1955 ...	3	0·00	0·00

A reduction which appears just as spectacular is evident from the returns furnished by the hospitals of the Colony:

Year	*Cases of malaria treated in hospitals*	*Deaths in hospitals*
1945 ...	3,244	148
1948 ...	1,576	66
1951 ...	98	4
1952 ...	3	Nil
1953 ...	Nil	do.
1954 ...	3	do.
1955 ...	1	do.

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Infective and Parastic Diseases

There has equally been a steady decline in the number of deaths caused by the group of infective and parasitic diseases: from 4,052 in 1948 and 1,603 in 1949, the death figures fell to 863 in 1951, 665 in 1954 and 311 in 1955.

Enteric fever

Another noteworthy feature is the reduction in the incidence of enteric fever: the incidence rate which was 1·47 per 1,000 of the population in 1946 came down to 0·67 in 1951, 0·16 in 1954 and 0·12 in 1955.

Mortality Rates

Mortality from the principal groups of diseases is hereunder summarised:

Group	*Number of deaths*	*Rate per 0/00 population*
(*a*) Infective and parasitic diseases	311	0·6
(*b*) Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs ...	487	0·8
(*c*) Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs	392	0·7
(*d*) Diseases of the circulatory system	573	1·0
(*e*) Diseases of the respiratory system	762	1·4
(*f*) Diseases of the digestive system	1,352	2·5
(*g*) Diseases peculiar to the first year of life	661	1·2

Institutional Facilities

The institutional facilities which were available in 1955 are tabulated hereunder:

	No.	*Beds*
(a) *Government Institutions*		
1. General Hospitals	8	1,197
2. Dispensaries (including 2 in the prisons)	48	—
3. Specialized Units : -		
(*a*) Maternity and Child Welfare Centres	8	—
(*b*) Maternity wards in hospitals	8	—
(*c*) Leprosarium	1	62
(*d*) Mental Hospital	1	707
(*e*) Orthopaedic Hospital	1	203
(*f*) Prisons Hospitals	2	46
4. Mobile Units :—		
(*a*) Dispensaries	4 units	
(*b*) Ante-natal Clinic	1 unit	
(*c*) Dental clinic	1 unit	
(b) *Private Institutions*		
1. Sugar estates' hospitals	33	738
2. Sugar estates' dispensaries	8	—
3. Nursing Homes	5	53

There are 37 dispensaries in the rural areas. In addition a Mobile Dispensary service comprising four units caters for the needs of scattered villages and hamlets where it would be uneconomic to provide a static out-patient service.

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There are 16 maternity and infant welfare centres, and regular clinics are held at each of these. This service is supplemented by a mobile unit which visits a large number of localities in the rural districts.

MEDICAL AND HEALTH STAFF

	Government	*Private*
1. Registered Medical Practitioners	48	49
2. Dentists	3	26
3. Pharmacists	1	43
4. Nurses of senior training ...	5	—
Nurses in hospitals	117	—
Dressers in hospitals	175	—
5. Midwives (all categories) ...	69	—
6. Sanitary Inspectors	57	—
7. X-Ray Specialist	1	—
X-Ray Technician	1	—

EXPENDITURE ON HEALTH SERVICES

Government expenditure on medical and health services in the financial year 1954–55 was Rs 10,811,716.35, or 9·38 per cent of the Colony's total expenditure for the year. This represents a sum of Rs 19.69 per head of the estimated population at the 31st December, 1954.

BUILDING AND PLANNING

Architecture

The recent revolution in building construction in Mauritius, whereby concrete has superseded timber as the principal building material, has, of necessity, led to a complete change from traditional forms.

The design possibilities of the new building medium have not been exploited, and the general standard of architecture has so far been uninspired. Now, however, there are signs of a quickening of interest in good design, and a certain vitality in recent buildings may herald the beginnings of new traditions, which may become as vigorous, though perhaps not as peculiarly Mauritian, as the old.

Town Planning

Although the Town Planning Ordinance has been in force since 1953, it has not been possible through lack of professional staff, to undertake any planning scheme. However, Crown Land in Port Louis is leased for purposes which accord with the Master Plan.

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Building Materials and Equipment

Good supplies of the more common types are held in stock by local suppliers. The prolonged dock and rail strike in Britain caused a number of building components to become scarce for a short time with a consequent rise in price.

Building Construction

While building technique has undergone no major change during the year, there has nevertheless been a certain amount of experiment in the use of new materials and new uses of conventional materials. There has been a growing tendency to insulate concrete roofs either by the use of a fibreboard bonded with bitumen felt, or by creating a ventilated cavity above the roof by means of raised concrete slabs. To some extent aluminium sheeting has been superseding corrugated iron for roofing, and asbestos slates, laid square, have been used to a limited extent. Emulsion paints are being used increasingly on rendered surfaces, and several brands are now available for outside works as well. Silicon water-proofing fluids have been used with some success for treating porous concrete.

Building Works

The Agricultural Bank in Port Louis is perhaps the most notable building under erection. It is constructed of a concrete frame, hollow block floors and walls, its three upper floors linked together their full height by vertical "*brise-soleil*".

In constructing the new mineral water factory at Belle Rose, the fifty-four foot span concrete block vault was erected with far less than the usual scaffolding.

The Curepipe Club building is of some note by reason of its picturesque setting and rich colouring.

Commercial building in Curepipe has been continued by yet two more blocks of shops with flats above, while the town's entertainment facilities have been improved by the completion of a large cinema hall.

Housing

In the urban areas local authorities have completed a number of schemes. The Quatre Bornes Town Council have almost completed their second and third low-cost schemes.

The Beau Bassin—Rose Hill Town Council have completed their Plaisance scheme and for the time being are not building. The Town Council of Curepipe are continuing with a considerable

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HOUSING SCHEME OF THE QUATRE BORNES TOWN COUNCIL AT CANDOS

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estate of medium and small houses. The Port Louis Municipality have completed their scheme at the foot of Signal Mountain and have prepared plans for a considerable estate on the eastern side of the town.

Two Co-operative Building Societies make low interest loans to their members for home building. Their activities are on a small scale and limited by the meagre funds at their disposal.

In rural areas considerable activity in house building continues, both by the Sugar Estates for their workers and by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund which builds groups of fifty to seventy houses on the outskirts of the larger villages. In spite of the extensive building programme, it is doubtful if general housing conditions are improving, due to the rapid increase in population, and the speedy deterioration of many dwellings in a humid, sub-tropical climate.

Government Buildings

During the year Government building continued at a considerably increased rate.

An Assembly and a Lecture Hall are under construction at the Teachers' Training' College Beau Bassin. At Queen Elizabeth College for girls, at Rose Hill, a large new block containing Science, Art, Library, Domestic Science and Administrative sections is being built, while at the Royal College in Curepipe the erection of a new Hall has commenced. Seven new Government primary schools, together with the substantial rebuilding of two more are being completed for opening in the new school year.

Police housing continued on a greatly increased rate. The Line Barracks scheme of twenty-five houses and flats was completed, and new schemes were started in Port Louis, in the north and in the south.

The construction of the new Orthopaedic Hospital continued throughout the year. By the end of the year considerable sections had been finished, and the completion of the whole is not far off.

The building of a number of quarters and dispensaries and a Health Centre were also undertaken for the Medical and Health Department.

Public Assistance

Outdoor Relief

The basic organisation for the registration, investigation and adjudication of applications for outdoor relief remained the same in 1955 as in 1954.

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New applications received in 1955 amounted to 8,378, of which 5,868 were entertained, while 4,841 allowances were withdrawn from the Register during the year. The total number of cases on roll at 31st December, 1955, was 9,823 as compared with 8,716 at the end of the preceding year.

The basic scale rates introduced in 1953 are still in force, but generous discretionary additions are made in cases of prolonged illness where a special diet is recommended.

The total amount disbursed on outdoor relief in 1955 was Rs 2,497,003, the average monthly payment in December 1955 being Rs 24.03 as against corresponding figures of Rs 2,092,673 and Rs 23.74 for 1954.

Relief in kind

The number and cost of blankets and flannel under-garments distributed to needy recipients of outdoor relief during the winter season in 1955, as compared with 1954, are as under:

Year	*Blankets Units*	*Flannels Units*	*Total cost Rs.*
1954 ...	4,064	508	38,347
1955 ...	3,618	2,002	46,214

In addition to these comforts, 174 pairs of spectacles to the value of Rs 2,657.50 were also issued to recipients of outdoor relief and to Old Age pensioners in 1955 on the recommendation of the eye specialist.

Workrooms

Work in lieu of relief is provided in the Department's work-rooms, the criterion for employment being destitution rather than competence. The number of persons so employed in 1955—mostly widows with large families—was 61, and their total earnings for the year on a piece rate basis amounted to Rs 67,872.21 as follows:

	Rs.
Laundry (in-workers)	17,583 90
Lingerie (out-workers)	13,982 32
Sergerie and Uniforms (in-workers) ...	36,305 99
TOTAL ...	67,872 21

The average monthly earning was therefore Rs 92.72 per relief worker as compared with Rs 88.64 for 1954.

Indoor Relief

There was no addition in 1955 to the number of Institutions providing indoor treatment.

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The number of inmates in the Infirmaries and Orphanages at the end of 1955, including harmless mental patients transferred from the Mental Hospital, was as under:

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
Infirms ...	392	267	659
Orphans ...	110	105	215

as compared with 639 infirms and 210 orphans at the end of the preceding year.

The capitation grant amounts to Rs 1.10 per day for both adults and children. The additional Christmas and New Year grant of Rs 2 per inmate was paid as usual in 1955.

A programme of outings to the seaside was arranged for the inmates of all Infirmaries and Orphanages in 1955, and these outings were much appreciated. The Youth Organisation also invited some 100 orphans from Public Assistance institutions to join the Schools Holiday Camp at Cannoniers Point for a week in 1955, thereby affording them an opportunity to mix with other children and participate in outdoor games and other activities during that period.

More frequent visits were paid in 1955 to the various institutions by members of voluntary organisations who distributed sweets and cigarettes to inmates and provided them with musical and other entertainment.

Old Age Pensions

The maximum rate of pension is Rs 20 per month.

The number of new applications received in 1955 amounted to 3,100 of which 2,772 were granted, while 2,383 allowances were removed from the Register during the year. At the 31st December, 1955, there were 18,429 current Old Age Pensions as compared with 17,995 at the end of 1954. The total disbursements on these pensions in 1955 amounted to Rs 4,401,184 the average monthly pension for December 1955 being Rs 19.90 as against corresponding figures of Rs 4,284,193 and Rs 19.38 for 1954.

Repatriation

An expenditure of Rs 26,997.22 was incurred in 1955 in connection with the repatriation of 16 destitute Mauritians from abroad and aliens from the Colony. In 8 of these cases the expenses, totalling Rs 477.50, are non-recoverable.

The number of repatriates on record at the end of 1955 was 33, and repayments amounting to Rs 3,823.02 were effected by 16 liable parties during the year.

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Relief to destitute Mauritians abroad

During the year there were 8 persons in receipt of " hard core " relief. The actual expenditure on this account from all sources is not yet known, but the total commitment is approximately Rs 8,259 per annum.

Social Welfare

Departmental Organisation

The Social Welfare Department was created in July, 1953. Before this date Social Welfare was the responsibility of a special branch of the Public Assistance Department while the Probation Service was under the charge of the Judicial Department. The Department works in close co-operation with other Government Departments and voluntary bodies engaged in social welfare activities.

Social Welfare Centres

With the construction of the 11th centre which was started this year, the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee will have only 4 more centres to build to complete the Social Welfare Centres Scheme which provided for the construction of 15 centres in the rural areas. These centres play an important part in the development of community activities and in the general social education of the people in the rural areas. A maternity and child welfare service including pre-natal and post-natal care to mothers and the provision of milk to babies constitutes one major activity of the centres. An important development in 1955 has been the appointment by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee of paid doctors to perform medical work, at the centres. The posting by the Director of Medical Services of two midwives to each of two social welfare centres is a first step in the implementation of a rural midwifery scheme. The midwifery service at the other Social Welfare Centres is still being run by the Social Welfare Department with funds provided largely by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee. It is under the technical supervision of the Medical Department.

Social Welfare centres are the focal point for afternoon and evening activities in every village where these exist. Indoor games, sports and listening to the radio are the main activities. In some centres there are formal literary classes, with debates and lectures from time to time. Film shows by mobile units are a regular feature at each centre.

The needlework classes held in each centre for the benefit of the local girls are very popular.

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To ensure co-ordination, conferences of chairmen of local committees are held from time to time under the chairmanship of the Social Welfare Commissioner.

Welfare Months

To stimulate community activities the holding of welfare months at social welfare centres has been found to be a successful technique. During the month chosen, besides a health exhibition at the centre, officers of departments such as Agriculture, Health, Education and Social Welfare give lectures and demonstrations to the people, drawing their attention to the problems of the village and suggesting solutions. In one place an experiment carried out by the Agricultural Officer with regard to potato cultivation according to modern technique not only removed the local prejudice that potatoes would not grow there but also proved conclusively that the yield could be remunerative. The contribution of the local women's associations, boys' clubs, cooperative societies and other welfare organisations is generally very substantial during the welfare month.

Women's Welfare

The development of women's associations is being encouraged, especially in the rural areas. The aim of these associations is to bring the women together to learn things which will be of help in their homes, to improve conditions in the village, to consider the needs of the villagers and to develop a spirit of friendliness, co-operation and initiative. There were 44 such associations registered at the Social Welfare Department at the end of 1955.

Most of the associations run a sewing class for the benefit of the girls of the village and there is also a fortnightly or monthly sewing class held by a dressmaker employed by the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee. In some places a handicraft class is held.

The year 1955 witnessed the coming into existence of the Mauritius Women's Institute. This organisation consists of ladies from all the communities of the Island. Its members pay regular visits to social welfare centres giving talks, demonstrations and sometimes holding sewing classes. A weekly class in painting is held by one of the members at a school in Port Louis. At the close of the year, members of the Institute were busy in helping the women's associations to prepare articles for an exhibition which is due to take place in the early days of January, 1956.

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Voluntary Workers Conference

The Social Welfare Department organises from time to time conferences of voluntary workers to discuss ways and means of developing the rural areas and raising the standard of living of the inhabitants.

Trèatment of Offenders

The Probation system, introduced in the Island in 1946, has made satisfactory progress. Probation applies to both juveniles and adults and it is worthy of note that more adults than juveniles pass through the hands of Probation Officers. A certain amount of social work connected with the courts, (e.g., settling of matrimonial disputes, handling of difficult children, etc.), is also undertaken by Probation Officers, many of whom have been trained in the United Kingdom.

The Probation Service pays particular attention to the prevention of delinquency. To occupy the leisure time of youths in villages, Probation Officers now urge them to make use of the available facilities in Social Welfare Centres.

Probationers are now required to report to Probation Officers in Social Welfare Centres, wherever these exist, instead of going all the way to the Court House. In a Welfare Centre, the Probation Officer can spend more time with the individual delinquent child and is in a better position to plan rehabilitation measures.

The first Probation Hostel for boys was opened in May 1954; it is managed by a representative Committee. It can accommodate fifteen boys, and the number of probationers was up to eleven in 1955. These boys are regularly employed outside the hostel, and part of their earnings goes towards their keep. Voluntary workers help the management with regard to the education and health of the inmates.

In the field of after-care, Probation Officers help with the rehabilitation of juveniles released from the Industrial School and from Borstal.

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Chapter 8: Legislation

Forty-four Ordinances were passed by the Legislative Council and assented to by the Governor during the year 1955. These Ordinances deal principally with matters of domestic concern and the most important of them are:

The Government Payable Orders Ordinance 1955
(No. 2 of 1955)

The Ordinance provides for a payable order to be used in lieu of a cheque for the making of payments on behalf of the Government of Mauritius and for matters incidental thereto and connected therewith.

The Enemy Property Ordinance, 1955
(No. 3 of 1955)

The object of this Ordinance is to confer indemnity on persons—including institutions and Government departments—who had in furtherance of the Trading with the Enemy legislation to take action in regard to enemy property in such circumstances that the action taken was not strictly authorised by that legislation.

The Deceased Public Officers Salary (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
The Pensions (Cap. 333) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
The Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
The Aided School Teachers' Pensions (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
(Nos. 5, 6, 7 and 8 of 1955)

These four Ordinances contain similar provisions regarding grants to the widow, children or other heirs or legal personal representative of a deceased officer, whose pension rights are governed by (i) Ordinance No. 30 of 1881, (ii) The Pensions Ordinance (Cap. 333), (iii) The Pensions Ordinance, 1951, and (iv) The Aided School Teachers' Pensions Ordinance, 1952. They provide that the aforesaid heirs or legal representative shall be entitled to receive an amount equivalent to one year's pensionable emoluments of that officer or the pension gratuity which he might have received if he had retired at the time of his death on grounds of permanent ill-health, whichever sum is the greater. The Ordinances further give to the aforesaid heirs of a pensioner who dies shortly after retirement a gratuity representing the difference, if any, between the officer's annual pensionable emoluments and any payment already made to him, if any, of pension or gratuity.

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The Notaries (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
(No. 11 of 1955)

The main object of this Ordinance is to suppress the formality of notarial deeds having to be drawn up in duplicate originals of which one has to be deposited at the Archives Office. Instead, all notarial deeds shall be drawn up in single originals which shall be kept at the office of the notaries drawing them until they are at least sixty years old when they shall be transferred to the Archives Office. The Ordinance also does away with the cumbersome mode of replacing the original deed by a literal copy whenever a notary has temporarily to part therewith, and provides instead for the replica of the deed to be kept by the notary to consist of a photograph or photocopy of such deed.

The Package Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
(No. 12 of 1955)

This Ordinance gives effect to the provisions of the Unesco Agreement on the importation of educational, scientific and cultural materials by exempting such materials from package tax.

The Customs (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
(No. 15 of 1955)

By this Ordinance power is given to the Comptroller of Customs to deliver goods which have been entered but not taken delivery of by the importer to any person holding a draft with a document of title to such goods in guarantee of the payment thereof. Prior to this Ordinance only the importer who had made entry of the goods could obtain delivery of them. If he chose not to do so, the goods were later dealt with as unclaimed, and if he had not accepted the draft which in the normal course of business is sent by the consignor to a bank with the bill of lading, the consignor was deprived of the full costs of the goods. In such a case the bank will now be able to take delivery of the goods.

The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
(No. 17 of 1955)

The main objects of this Ordinance are:

(1) to provide for the conduct of examinations locally for the issue of valid certificates of competency to persons intending to act as skippers and second hands on locally registered fishing vessels engaged in voyages within certain defined areas;

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(2) to give the Governor power in cases of necessity to exempt locally registered vessels from the requirement that they cannot sail from the Colony without officers holding valid certificates of competency under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894;

(3) to extend to motor vessels the provisions of the law similar to section 743 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1894, relating to the employment of certificated engineers subject to a power of exemption in case of necessity.

The Prisons (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
(No. 18 of 1955)

This Ordinance provides for the grant of monetary rewards to prisoners whilst serving their sentence, for work performed by them.

The Trade Marks (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
(No. 19 of 1955)

This Ordinance has for its main object to afford protection, additional to that provided by existing law, against the application to goods of false or misleading trade descriptions. For that purpose provisions similar to those contained in the Merchandise Marks Act, 1953, have been introduced into local legislation.

The Industrial Courts (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
(No. 20 of 1955)

By this Ordinance exclusive jurisdiction in criminal and civil matters arising out of the Trade Union Ordinance, 1954, and the Trade Disputes Ordinance, 1954, is conferred on the Industrial Courts.

The Legislative Council (Privileges, Immunities and Powers) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
(No. 21 of 1955)

By amending the definition of "member" in Ordinance No. 22 of 1953, the protection afforded to members of the Legislative Council is extended to any person summoned by the Governor to a meeting of the Council.

The Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
(No. 22 of 1955)

The main changes effected by this Ordinance to the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund Ordinance are the following:—

(1) the definition of " Public Officer " is made to include a servant of the Board and certain teachers;

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(2) Public Officers contributing to the Colonial Superannuation Scheme are exempted from the obligation of becoming associates;

(3) the refund of the amount of their contributions to bachelors who leave the service will now include compound interest; and

(4) where the pension payable to a widow is less than sixty rupees per annum, such widow shall, except in certain cases, receive sixty rupees annually.

The Forest, Mountain and River Reserves (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
(No. 25 of 1955)

Better protection is provided for by the Ordinance to the forest, mountain and river reserves against physical deterioration by prohibiting the excavation of earth, gravel or other materials and the deposit of objects or materials on such reserves likely to cause damage to the vegetation.

The Probation of Offenders (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
The Juvenile Offenders (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
(Nos. 26 and 27 of 1955)

These Ordinances complete the amendment effected by Ordinance No. 13 of 1954 to the law relating to the probation of offenders by ensuring that as regards offenders dealt with under these Ordinances, also a Court should in all cases in which it is satisfied that the charge preferred against the offender has been proved, proceed to the conviction of such offender. The first mentioned Ordinance provides also that the report of a probation officer concerning the offender should be communicated to such offender so that he should have the opportunity of rebutting any statement contained therein.

The Deportation (British Subjects) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
(No. 29 of 1955)

The amendments effected by this Ordinance to section 2 of the Deportation (British Subjects) Ordinance are designed to adapt that Ordinance to changed circumstances since that Ordinance was originally enacted in 1936.

The District Courts Execution (Amendment) Ordinance 1955
(No. 30 of 1955)

The changes effected by this Ordinance are the following:—

(1) The Magistrates are no longer under the obligation of stating their reasons for committing to prison a person against whom a warrant for extra-mural employment may be issued.

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(2) Extra-mural employment can no longer be ordered in cases where the convicted party has either the means to pay the fine imposed or has already benefited by extra-mural treatment on more than one occasion.

The Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
(No. 35 of 1955)

The main object of this Ordinance is to raise to three hundred rupees the amount (originally fifty rupees) which was the criterion for the grant of legal aid to a person prosecuted before the Supreme Court. Any person who can make affidavit that he is not worth that amount shall be entitled to have free legal aid assigned to him. The Ordinance also extends the grant of such aid to persons prosecuted for any offence instead of offences under the Penal Code only as was previously the case.

The Customs (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
(No. 38 of 1955)

This Ordinance provides for the grant of temporary admission into the Colony, without payment of import duty, of motor cars privately owned by officers of Her Majesty's land and air forces and for matters connected therewith.

The Labour (Amendment) Ordinance, 1955
(No. 40 of 1955)

This Ordinance which makes provision for the office of Deputy Labour Commissioner gives greater freedom to the Labour Commissioner in assigning powers and duties to the subordinate officers of the Department. Such powers and duties were hitherto prescribed by regulations made by the Governor.

The Sugar Industry Pension Fund Ordinance, 1955
(No. 42 of 1955)

This Ordinance provides for the establishment of a Pension Fund for the benefit of employees of the Sugar Industry of the Colony and allied undertakings.

The Pharmacy and Poisons Ordinance, 1955
(No. 44 of 1955)

This Ordinance consolidates and amends the law on pharmacy. Some of the changes and improvements effected by this Ordinance are based on United Kingdom legislation.

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Chapter 9 : Justice, Police and Prisons

The Laws of Mauritius are mainly based on the French Codes. The Civil Code, the Penal Code, the Code of Commerce and the Code of Civil Procedure, with such amendments as have been made thereto to suit local conditions, are still to a large extent in force in the Colony. There is also a great number of Ordinances.

The Bankruptcy Law, the Law of Evidence and the Law of Criminal Procedure are, however, mostly English, as well as is the whole system of the Labour Laws.

The highest judicial authority is The Supreme Court of the Colony of Mauritius and its Dependencies consisting of the Chief Justice and three Puisne Judges.

The Executive Officer of that Court is the Master and Registrar, who is also a Judge of the Bankruptcy Division of the Court.

The Supreme Court is a superior Court of record and has the same powers, authority and jurisdiction as the High Court of Justice in England.

It exercises jurisdiction in divorce matters and Admiralty, jurisdiction in virtue of the Colonial Courts of Admiralty Act, 1890, and is also a Court of Equity. It has powers of supervision over all the other Courts of the Colony and hears appeals from the Supreme Courts of the Colony of Seychelles in civil matters.

Appeals lie to the Privy Council in certain cases against judgments of the Supreme Court.

The Judges of the Supreme Court preside over the Assize Court, the verdict being returned by a jury of nine men; the decision must be that of at least seven out of the nine members.

Since the 1st of January, 1955, there has been a Court of Criminal Appeal. The Chief Justice and the Judges of the Supreme Court are the Judges of that Court which is constituted by three Judges. That Court hears appeals from persons convicted before the Supreme Court.

The District Magistrates of the Colony have jurisdiction in civil cases in which the subject matter does not exceed three thousand rupees in value. They hold judicial enquiries in cases of accidental death or of fire, and preliminary enquiries in cases triable by the Assize Court. In addition they deal with certain matters in Chambers.

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The summary jurisdiction of a District Court in criminal matters is vested in a District Magistrate who deals with the less serious offences and is empowered to sentence an accused party to imprisonment with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding one year, and to a fine not exceeding one thousand rupees.

Certain offences may be tried by an intermediary Court consisting of a Bench of three Magistrates who have power to impose a sentence of penal servitude of not more than three years, and a sentence of imprisonment of not more than two years, and who can also impose any fine not exceeding the maximum provided by law for the offence dealt with by them.

The number of Magistrates is now 14. One of them, who is also the Civil Commissioner for Rodrigues, administers justice in that Dependency.

A visiting Magistrate inspects once annually each of the Lesser Dependencies.

There is in addition an Industrial Court which is presided over by a Magistrate and which has exclusive jurisdiction—subject to appeal or review—in all labour disputes including workmen's compensation cases and matters arising out of factory legislation.

The administrative control over the Magistracy has, since 1945, been vested in the Chief Justice.

The majority of the civil cases brought before District Courts concern claims for money, or possession of tenement, or ownership of land.

On the criminal side, most of the cases, other than petty breaches of the law, relate to offences involving fraud, e.g. larceny, embezzlement, forgery, or swindling, or offences against the person, e.g. wounds and blows, indecent acts and assaults, or breaches of the road traffic laws.

During the year 1955, 29 cases were brought before the Court of Assizes of which one went before the Court of Criminal Appeal.

There were 605 civil cases entered before the Supreme Court as compared with 618 in 1954; 520 cases were entered before the Industrial Court as against 655 in 1954; 4,539 civil cases and 33,002 criminal cases were heard by the District Courts.

Police

Functions

The functions of the Mauritius Police Force are prescribed by Section 14 of the Police Ordinance and include the following duties: preserving the Public Peace; preventing and detecting crimes, mis-

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demeanours, contraventions; regulating traffic; executing warrants and summonses issued by the Courts.

Strength

The Police Force consists of a Commissioner of Police, and of such other Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Constables as may be determined by the Governor from time to time with the approval of the Secretary of State.

Organization

The Mauritius Police Force has an authorised establishment of 30 officers and 1,119 other ranks. In addition there are 25 Police Women who are employed on clerical work.

In addition to their primary responsibility for preventing and detecting offences and for maintaining law and order, the Police are responsible for the control of immigration and emigration, weights and measures, issuing of licences (motor vehicles, drivers, liquor, firearms, etc.), the collection of inland revenue; the supervision of licensed premises and other extraneous duties.

The Constables are trained in foot and baton drill, and a number of selected personnel in each District and at Headquarters are trained in the use of tear smoke.

The Commissioner of Police assisted by the Deputy Commissioner of Police and other Officers has his Headquarters at Line Barracks in Port Louis.

The personnel of the Force is distributed among:

(a) Police Headquarters and the following Branches:

(i) Criminal Investigation and Revenue and Liquor Branch
(ii) Pay and Quartermaster's Branch
(iii) Road Traffic Branch
(iv) Training School and Reserve
(v) Forensic Science Laboratory
(vi) The Band
(vii) The Water Police
(viii) The Rodrigues Police
(ix) The Railway Police

(b) Six Police Districts controlling 48 Police Stations and Posts.

The Criminal Investigation Department

This Branch is responsible for the investigation of serious crimes and cases of a special nature such as frauds and defalcations; it also affords assistance to the District Police when necessary and collates the statistics of crime for the whole Island.

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To the C.I.D. are attached the Finger Print and Modus Operandi Bureau, the Photographic Section, the Immigration and Passport Section, the Central Registry of Habitual Criminals and the Revenue and Liquor Branch.

Finger Print and Modus Operandi Bureau

62 scenes were visited by the staff and articles bearing finger prints were brought to the Finger Print Office by the District Police in 147 cases. Decipherable prints were found in 30 cases. Fifteen identifications were made. In 7 cases finger prints were the sole evidence available against the accused parties. In 6 cases documents bearing finger prints were referred to the Finger Print Office and in 4 cases identity was established. The Finger Print slips of 12,354 criminals (males and females) are on record. The scene of crime collection contains 82 photographs of unidentified prints found at scenes of crime. The palm print collection contains 1,997 prints. 862 Criminals showing a distinctive *Modus Operandi* are registered in a Method Index, 300 Criminals are on the Findex system.

The Photographic Section

6,432 photographs were supplied. These included 141 scenes of crimes and 60 of fatal or serious accidents. 526 criminals were photographed, 616 photographs were supplied for warrant cards issued to members of the Force and special constables, 8 dead bodies were photographed to assist identification.

Immigration and Passport Section

During the year, 1,276 passports (including 224 free) were issued, 322 renewed and 147 visaed. 91 emergency certificates of nationality, 5 collective passports and 20 Seaman's certificates of Nationality and Identity were issued. 71 forms of affidavit in lieu of Passport were registered. The Immigration staff attended 346 ships arriving in Port Louis and 160 aircrafts at Plaisance Airport. 6,812 persons entered the Colony, including 80 immigrants, 6,702 left, including 104 emigrants.

Supervision of Habitual Criminals

Supervision is maintained over Habitual Criminals and bad characters who are sentenced to Police Supervision by the Courts. There were 2,135 re-convicted male criminals in the Island including 218 first offenders re-convicted during the year.

Revenue and Liquor Section

This Section controls the collection of Inland Revenue and for that purpose keeps a card index record of all trade licences issued quarterly. Regular checks of licensed premises are effected by the

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personnel of the Section, whose duties also include the prevention and detection of offences against the Distillery, Liquor, Dangerous Drugs, and Weights and Measures laws. The Section pays particular attention to the detection of opium offences, illicit distillation of spirits and to the prevention of gambling in private clubs.

Pay and Quartermaster's Branch

Under the charge of the Pay and Quartermaster of the Force, this Branch is divided into two Sections: the Pay Section and the Store Section, the latter under the special charge of the Assistant Pay and Quartermaster. The Pay Section is responsible for all the finance and accounting of the Force and for the collection of inland revenue. The Store Section deals with the indenting of materials, the manufacture and issue of uniforms for all ranks, and the supply generally of stores and accoutrements to the Force.

Road Traffic Branch

Police Vehicles in use:

Motor Cycles (solos)	19	
Land Rovers	12	
Vans and Light Trucks ...	6	
Prisoners' vans	3	
Lorries	7	(including a mobile canteen)
Motor cars	13	
Cyclemasters	7	

Road Traffic

The number of vehicles has continued to increase; by the end of 1955 it has reached the figure of 10,066. Although the incidence of accidents was still on the high side a slight decrease was recorded during 1955.

Training School

Recruits from among young men of the local population are enlisted between the ages of 18 and 25 after undergoing educational and medical examinations. Selections are made by a Board of Officers appointed and convened for the purpose .

The School aims at training the members of the Force on the same lines as the training given in England, and at inculcating in them tact, patience, tolerance, good humour, initiative and ability to rely on their own judgment and resources.

The normal period of training of recruits at the Training School is six months, which affords time to give adequate instruction in laws, police duties and procedure, general knowledge, first aid, elementary drill, riot drill and physical training.

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Recruits undergo theoretical training for the first three months, and practical training, including station and street duties, during the second half of their stage at the School.

The Band

The Mauritius Police Band which was first established in 1921 is a full military brass band, composed of trained musicians. A dance orchestra was formed in 1947 from among members of the Band.

The Water Police

The Water Police is under the orders of the Superintendent of Police, Port Louis district. The unit comprises one Corporal and nine Constables. It is equipped with a 15 H.P. motor launch suitable for use only within the harbour. The unit performs regular patrols in Port Louis Harbour, to maintain law and order and to enforce harbour regulations. Its duties also include preventing persons from stowing away; assisting in the enforcement of immigration and quarantine laws; supervising the unloading of cattle; and preventing smuggling.

During the year the Water Police attended 244 ships which entered the harbour.

The Rodrigues Police

The Rodrigues Police commanded by an Assistant Superintendent is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in the dependency. The establishment of this Police formation is 1 Officer and 27 other ranks.

The Railway Police

A Sub Inspector, a Sergeant and 6 Constables are attached to the Railway Department as a special Force to deal with offences committed on the Railway.

The Forensic Science Laboratory

This important institution of the Force was established in 1958 and maintains a high degree of professional competence. It is under the charge of the Police Medical Officer assisted by a suitable trained staff.

The Forensic Science Laboratory deals with the scientific examination of exhibits, the examination of documents and the identification of handwriting and typewriting in relation to cases of forgery and kindred offences. It also deals with any other aspect of crimes requiring scientific investigation.

Lectures on medical jurisprudence, first aid and hygiene are delivered regularly by the Police Medical Officer.

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First Aid: St. John Ambulance Association

Courses of instruction in First Aid are given to members of the Force, the Railway Department and the Fire Service. All lectures are delivered by qualified Medical Officers or lay lecturers with the assistance of instructors for practical demonstration in accordance with the regulations of the St. John Ambulance Overseas. Examinations were held during the year; 423 members of the Police Force are now qualified and hold the St. John's certificate.

A Mauritius Police Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade has been formed and registered at the Overseas Headquarters in England.

The Home Nursing Division which was registered and approved on 1st April, 1952, has a strength of 25.

Games, Recreation and Welfare

As much time as possible is devoted to the playing of games and to recreation generally. The Force possesses good football, volley ball and hockey teams. Inter-District and friendly matches with local teams are frequently played.

The Officers, Inspectorate, N.C.Os and Constables each have their own mess and recreation rooms.

A well-stocked canteen is open to all ranks of the Force. The Police Band contributes to official and demi-official functions in the various messes and institutions of the Force.

A Library and reading room is open daily to members of the Force and to public subscribers. Books, reviews, and newspapers are regularly imported and are circulated throughout the Colony among members of the Force posted at out-stations in the country districts. The stock of English and French books in the Library is 11,659.

A Police Federation of all ranks from Inspector to Constable exists for the consideration of any matters concerning the welfare and efficiency of its members, other than matters of discipline and promotions affecting individuals.

Firearms

Firearms are strictly controlled. The number of firearms licensed during the year was 7,497.

Police Reserve and Special Constables

With the approval of the Governor, a Police reserve consisting mainly of retired Police and Army Officers has been enrolled and is available for mobilization at short notice. The object of the Reserve is to provide a cadre of reliable citizens to assist the regular Police Force in an emergency.

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In accordance with section 47 of the Police Ordinance, special constables may be appointed at any time. A start was made in 1955 with the enrolment and training of 100 special constables on the lines of the Special Constabulary in Great Britain.

Offences

The number of offences reported to Police in 1955 was as follows:

Crimes	1,116
Misdemeanours ...	18,083
Contraventions	34,237

PRISONS

Functions of the Prisons Department

The policy of the Prisons Department is to maintain in safe custody the offenders delivered to its care. Subject to this, every possible effort is made by education, training in crafts, the issue of books and periodicals, the showing of instructional films and the introduction of privileges for good behaviour to imbue the prisoners with a sense of dignity, of self respect and of duty towards the community and country such as will fit them to re-enter the outside world as useful citizens on completion of their term of sentence.

Penal Administration

There are three institutions in the colony dealing with persons received from courts:

(a) Central Prison, Beau Bassin which has the Women's Prison attached.

(b) The Borstal Institution, Grand River North West.

(c) The Industrial School, Beau Bassin.

(a) Beau Bassin Prison

Beau Bassin Prison consists of two three-storey blocks accommodating 760 prisoners in separate cells and a remand block having 6 large communal and 6 separate cells accommodating 50 prisoners. There are also workshops where the following trades are taught: blacksmithing, tinsmithing, carpentry (3 shops), tailoring, shoemaking, basketery, mat-making and book-binding. There is also a concrete block-making industry and the erection of new buildings is carried out by prisoners. There are two hospital wards, together with stores and isolation wards.

The administrative headquarters of the service are situated in the Central Prison, from which all receptions and discharges of both male and female prisoners are carried out.,

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Within the men's prison at Beau Bassin there are now six yards laid out with flower beds and lawns where prisoners can associate for meals and leisure. Prisoners are segregated according to classification in the different yards:—

No. 1 Yard—Felon Recidivists
No. 2 Yard—Ordinary Recidivists
No. 3 Yard—Punishment Yard
No. 4 Yard—Stars (First offenders, all ages)
No. 5 Yard—Young prisoners (17–23 years)
No. 6 Yard—Remand Yard.

The classes are kept segregated as far as possible while at work. There is also a grade system in operation whereby a prisoner can by good behaviour pass successively from Probationary to 3rd, 2nd and 1st Grade, each grade having certain privileges, such as extra books, longer time in association and the playing of games.

Young prisoners now undergo recreational training under a trained instructor, morning and afternoon. There are also three voluntary recreational classes each evening. A qualified school teacher is attached to the department and takes three voluntary educational classes in the new class room built by prison labour, each evening after prison labour has ceased.

A cinema show is given inside the prison once a month, when films of topical and educational interest are shown. During week-ends (on Saturdays and Sundays) the football pitch outside the prison is used by prisoners. About 200 prisoners enjoy this privilege each week, not including those who go out as spectators. Prisoners now have their representative football team, who play against civilian teams on Wednesday evenings, when about 200 prisoner spectators are permitted to attend. Volley-ball pitches and a basket-ball pitch inside the prison walls are in use daily after labour.

The number of unofficial visitors has increased both in the Men's and Women's Prison and to date some notable successes have been achieved.

The women prisoners are housed in the Women's Prison which was opened on the 11th May, 1951. It has been built to adjoin the main prison, with a separate entrance. The grounds are attractively laid out with lawns, flowers and a vegetable plot. A large number of fruit trees and flowering shrubs has been planted. The inmates, who are few in number, are taught sewing, gardening and mat weaving, the latter by unofficial visitors.

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(b) The Borstal Institution, Grand River North West. The Borstal Institution is of minimum security and has accommodation for about 125 youths. It is run on similar lines to a Borstal in the United Kingdom.

The inmates are classified into the ordinary, probationary and special grades; there is also a penal grade for boys under punishment. Apart from classification, they are divided into three Houses: Red, Blue and White which compete to stimulate interest.

The lads receive daily instruction in the following trades: carpentry, tinsmithing, tailoring, cooking, boot and shoemaking and gardening. A party of boys goes daily to the Forest Nursery for work and instruction. In addition they have physical training and educational classes under a qualified teacher.

Educational films are shown and explained to the lads twice monthly and outdoor games are organised each evening. Lads of the special and probationary grades swim at the sea side three times a week. Football matches are played against outside teams and an annual sports day has been instituted. The boys attended their camp in September this year.

A Borstal Visiting Committee meets monthly and, among other things, decides on questions of release.

(c) The Barkly Industrial School, Beau Bassin

The School has accommodation for about 200 boys and is run on the same lines as an English Approved School.

Boys up to the age of 18 years are catered for. The senior boys are divided into houses: Red, White and Blue; while the juniors (under 14) are in Yellow House, where they are separately accommodated and fed. A monthly " house " competition is run with points for conduct, cleanliness and upkeep of the house gardens.

All junior boys attend school daily for four hours under qualified teachers and receive primary school instruction up to the 6th Standard. Senior boys who are illiterate attend school three evenings a week.

All boys do daily physical training under a qualified instructor and in addition take part in organised games. Films of educational value are shown and commented on by the Visual Education Officer and lecturers on forestry, citizenship, electricity and animal husbandry have been given by experts who have offered their services to help the boys. Instruction in tinsmithing, brushmaking, shoemaking, carpentry, cooking and gardening is given to the boys in accordance with their aptitudes.

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The School drum and fife band is popular and always appreciated. All boys have an opportunity of spending a fortnight under canvas at the sea-side.

Prison Discipline

During 1955, 967 reports were dealt with as follows: 6 by the Prison Board and 961 by the Commissioner.

Remissions

All prisoners sentenced to imprisonment whether by one sentence or by consecutive sentences for a period of not less than 30 days are entitled to have one-third of their sentences remitted.

No payment is yet made for prison labour but an earning scheme has now been aproved by the Legislative Council.

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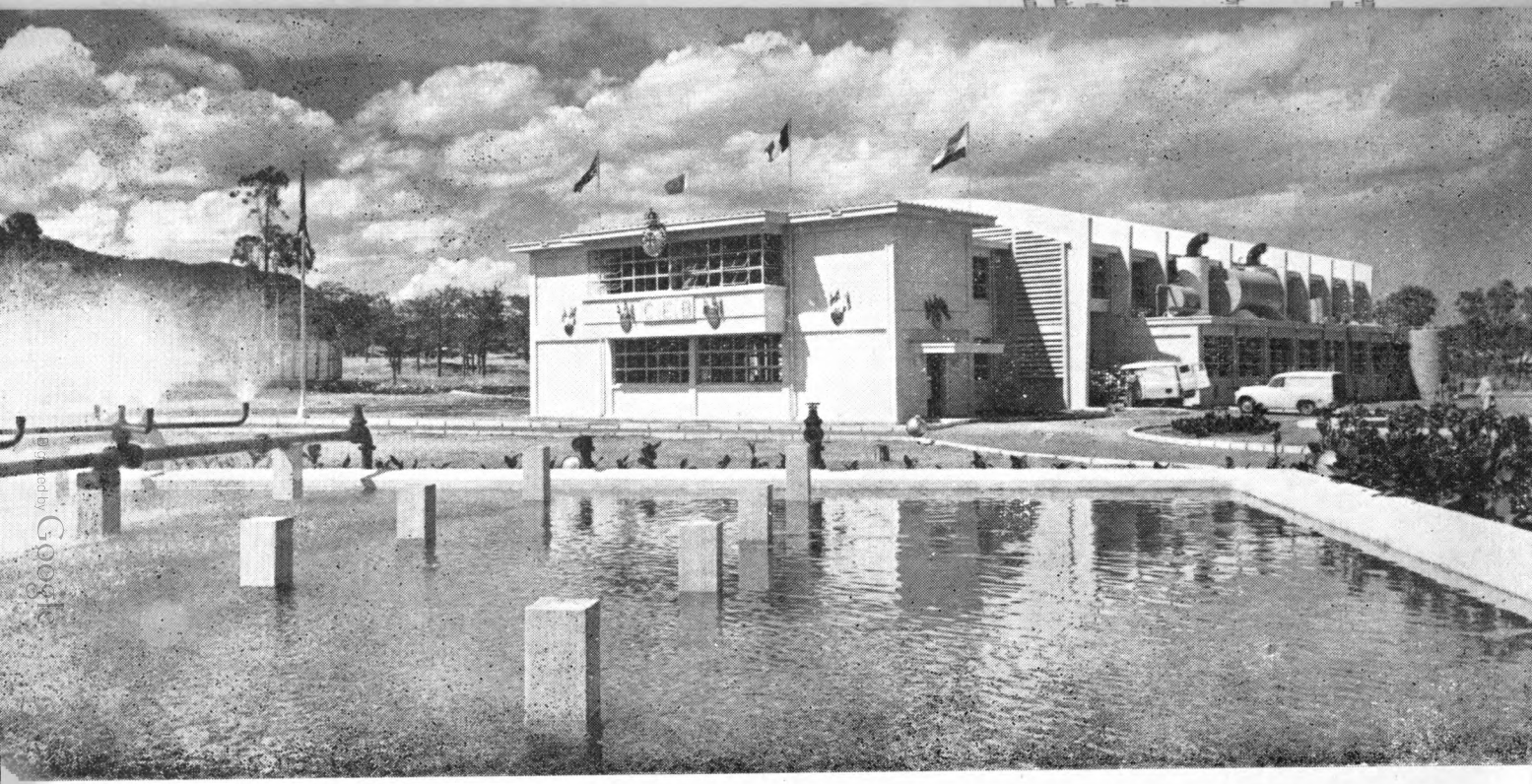

A VIEW OF THE BUILDING OF THE ST. LOUIS POWER STATION WHICH IS INTENDED TO ACCOMODATE FOUR DIESEL GENERATING SETS, OUT OF WHICH TWO WERE ON COMMISSION, AND A THIRD ONE IN COURSE OF ERECTION IN 1955

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Chapter 10: Public Utilities and Public Works

Electricity

A Central Electricity Board was constituted by Ordinance No. 79 of 1951 which came into force in December, 1952. The control and development of electricity supplies generally in the Colony is now vested in the Board which in addition has been entrusted with the following functions and duties:

(a) to prepare and carry out development schemes with the general object of promoting, co-ordinating and improving generation, transmission, distribution and sale of electricity for all purposes throughout the Colony;

(b) to provide for new generating stations.

Electricity is provided by the Central Electricity Board and one privately owned undertaking, the General Electric Supply Company of Mauritius Limited.

The Board has hitherto purchased from the General Electric Supply Company of Mauritius Limited a bulk supply of energy to supplement the output of its own power stations; but, in accordance with its policy aiming at a unified electricity supply service, it served a notice on the Company in January, intimating the Board's intention to take over the Company in accordance with the provisions of the Electricity Ordinance. Negotiations in this connexion have been proceeding throughout the year.

The Board's Ten Year Development Programme was published in February. It provides for an increased production of electricity from further hydro power resources and diesel plant, as well as an improved and wider distribution system.

A second generating set of 1,500 Kw. capacity was installed at the Board's new Diesel Generating Station at Plaine Lauzun and was commissioned during the year. A third set is being erected and will be commissioned in 1956. This generating station will remove the danger of power shortages caused by periodical deficiencies in rainfall.

The total number of electricity consumers on the 31st December was 33,606. The total amount of units generated during the year was 36.75 million KWH—an increase of 12 per cent over the preceding year's production.

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The installed capacity of the existing power stations and the output for 1955 were as follows:

(a) General Electric Supply Company

	KW	*Million KWH*
Tamarind power station	8,000	28·19
Le Reduit power station	600	2·70
	8,600	30·89

(b) Central Electricity Board

Cascade Cecile power station ...	310	0 80
Diesel power station	300	5·06
	610	5·86
TOTAL ...	9,210	36·75

It must be noted that the effective capacity of the Tamarind power station is, at present, 6,600 Kw on account of the limitation of penstock pipes.

Negotiations are taking place for the supply of power to a sugar estate during the inter-crop season in exchange for the supply of power by the sugar estate to the Board during the crop season. This is a particularly significant development of the production and distribution of electricity power in Mauritius.

WATER WORKS

The progress made in the development of water supply for domestic, irrigation and hydro electric purposes is reviewed below.

(i) *Domestic Water Supplies*

The two principal sources of domestic water supply are Mare-aux-Vacoas and Grand River North West. The supply from Mare-aux-Vacoas is derived from a storage reservoir of 597 million cubic feet capacity at an elevation of 1,850 feet above the sea level and provides water for about half the population of the island. It serves the district of Plaines Wilhems and parts of the districts of Moka, Black River and Port Louis.

Important works of improvement to this water supply are being carried out under the Development Scheme to further extend the supply and to meet the increased demand due to the growth of population and to the rise in the standard of living. Consumption at the end of 1954 was 7,330,000 gallons per day. The development works provide for an increased supply of nearly 9,000,000 gallons. The water is filtered and chlorinated before distribution.

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Two new filters were built during the year, increasing the filtering capacity by 12 per cent. Four new service reservoirs of a total capacity of 730,000 gallons, and three trunk mains were built in 1955.

The Grand River North West water supply is derived from the river of that name at an elevation of about 250 feet above sea level. The supply amounts to 5,000,000 gallons per day. It is managed by the Municipality of Port Louis and serves exclusively the town of Port Louis with a population of about 60,000. The water is filtered and chlorinated before use.

Another source of supply, the Piton du Milieu Scheme, is now being developed and is intended to provide filtered and chlorinated water to localities in the North, East and South of the island comprising the districts of Rivière du Rempart, Flacq, Grand Port, Savanne and part of Moka, and to replace existing unsatisfactory supply sources. The new supply will be derived from a storage reservoir of 110 million cubic feet capacity at an elevation of 1,435 feet. The scheme, when completed, will supply 4,000,000 gallons per day to a population of about 143,000 inhabitants. The reservoir was completed at the end of 1953 and work is continuing on the construction of filters and the laying of pipes for the distribution system.

About 5½ miles of 15″ trunk main was laid from the filters towards the districts of the South. Sixty-three miles of service mains and distribution pipes from 12″ to 3″ diameter were laid during the year.

(ii) *Irrigation*

Irrigation is carried out in the Black River district from La Ferme reservoir and in the northern districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart from La Nicolière reservoir.

La Ferme reservoir, at an elevation of 450 feet above sea level, has a capacity of 417 million cubic feet and serves to irrigate, at present 2,500 acres. Additional supplies are being derived from Mare-aux-Vacoas, Mare Longue and Tamarind Falls reservoirs by means of the Magenta Canal, completed in 1954, which has brought another 1,500 acres under irrigation.

La Nicolière reservoir, at an elevation of 800 feet above sea level, has a capacity of 200 million cubic feet and serves to irrigate about 1,000 acres of land The reservoir is linked to Midlands by the Midlands—La Nicolière Feeder Canal 17 miles long.

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(iii) *Hydro-Electric Power*

Water for hydro-electric purposes is supplied from three reservoirs:

(a) the Mare-aux-Vacoas reservoir mentioned in (i) above;

(b) the Mare Longue reservoir of a storage capacity of 220 million cubic feet at an elevation of 1,900 feet above sea level;

(c) the Tamarind Falls reservoir of a storage capacity of 72 million cubic feet at an elevation of 1,625 feet above sea level.

The three reservoirs are situated in the catchment area of the Tamarind river and supply water to a power station situated at 960 feet below the Tamarind Falls reservoir.

The output of the power station in 1955 was over 28 million KWH.

After going through the power station, water passes through the Magenta Canal, and is used for irrigation purposes in the Black River district.

The hydro-electric project at Eau Bleue has been approved and preliminary works were started early in 1955. This scheme was recommended by Sir Bede Clifford in his book " The Irrigation and Hydro-Electric Resources of Mauritius " published in 1940.

The scheme provides for the construction of an earth dam of approximately 7½ million cubic feet and the storage of 220 million cubic feet of water. The site of the reservoir is on River Eau Bleue near Midlands. A fall of 600 feet will be made available by cutting through a ridge separating the reservoir site from Le Val where the power station will be situated.

The power station will have an output capacity of about 5 million KWH per annum making use of the flow of River Eau Bleue alone. By supplementing the flow of River Eau Bleue by that of River Citron, the output of the power station may be increased to 8 million KWH per annum. The total output can further be increased to 14 million units by diverting part of Grand River South East into the reservoir.

PUBLIC WORKS

The responsibilities of the Public Works and Surveys' Department may be set out as follows:

(a) maintenance and/or construction of (i) all Government works in connexion with water supplies, roads, bridges, cemeteries, quays and machinery at the Harbour, (ii) Military Works on behalf of the Military Authorities and (iii) Government buildings costing not more than Rs 5,000;

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MAGENTA DAM WHICH REGULATES THE FLOW OF IRRIGATION WATER THROUGH THE MAGENTA CANAL

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(b) the management of all Crown lands and lands forming part of the domaine public, and the acquisition of land for public purposes;

(c) the leasing of sand quarries;

(d) the valuation, and the inspection of all lands pledged to Government, the assessment of damage caused by fire to canefields or other properties and the assessment of compensation for property acquired;

(e) advice to Government on public works and all questions relating to the other functions of the department.

The supply of materials from overseas improved during the year and good progress was made in the development of the water works undertaken by the Public Works Department.

The maintenance work was also carried out without any difficulty.

Much attention was given to the maintenance and improvement of roads. Nine miles of road were tarred during the year, Out of a total length of 716 miles of main and branch roads, about 338 miles are now tarred.

Observatory

The Observatory Department maintains a meteorological and magnetic station at the Royal Alfred Observatory, Pamplemousses, an administrative and forecasting headquarters at Vacoas and a meteorological observing station at Plaisance Airfield. Meteorological observing stations are also maintained in the Dependencies at Agaléga, Diégo Garcia, Rodrigues and St. Brandon.

Complete rainfall records were collected from about 150 gauges distributed over the Colony. About 350 meteorological observations were collected each month from ships at sea. The daily weather maps covered, as far as possible, the whole of the Indian Ocean and surrounding continents between 15° N and 50° S. Meteorological observations and forecasts were prepared and transmitted daily for the use of meteorological services of other countries, shipping, aviation, Government Departments and the public. Special warnings of tropical cyclones were provided and numerous general enquiries from authorities overseas and in the Colony were answered.

A grant of £40,190 (Rs 535,866) under the Colonial Development and Welfare Scheme No D 2655 Meteorological Services, was approved in December, 1955, to enable the Colony to establish a

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radio sonde/wind station and a suitable teleprinter system, and the construction of quarters for the personnel of the department in Mauritius and the dependencies. The assistance provided from Colonial Development and Welfare funds is much appreciated.

The Granary

The Granary, which was completed in 1933, is a two storeyed building of ferro-concrete and brick and covers an area of 1½ acres. It adjoins a Lighter Quay 389 feet long served by six electrically-operated hoists which lift bagged grain from lighters at the Quay to the top floor of the building which is operated as a Customs transit shed. From the top floor grain is delivered by gravity chutes to the first and ground floors which are divided into twelve and six separate stores. Other gravity chutes connect the first floor with the delivery yard at the rear of the building.

The Granary Ordinance prescribes that all grain (which includes rice, dholl, lentils, gram, peas and any other cereal which may be declared grain for that purpose by Proclamation), shall be discharged from ships to lighters and conveyed to the Granary for storage. The Ordinance limits the amount of grain which may be stored elsewhere than at the Granary.

The building was designed and erected with the object of protecting grain against contamination and destruction by pests particularly rodents, and all entrances, exits and personal lifts are operated with this in view.

After allowing for passageways and separation of cargoes, storage capacity is sufficient for approximately 500,000 bags of grain (about 34,500 tons).

As originally planned the various stores of the first and ground floors were to be allocated to importers who would be responsible for their stocks delivered from the top floor. Such allocation however has not been possible for a considerable time because of bulk-buying, particularly of rice, by Government and the consequent occupation of the greater part of the store for the storage of Government supplies.

All grain is stored in the Granary in bags: there is no bulk storage. Pest infestation is prevented as far as possible by spraying insecticide. Measures against white ants and termites are carried out by a local firm under contract and stores are fumigated as frequently as traffic permits.

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The Granary Department which is responsible for the administration and maintenance of the building is under the control of the Granary Superintendent who is also the Comptroller of Customs. Handling and stacking of grain is carried out by contract labour. During the year 1954–55, 58,067 tons of rice and 5,895 tons of other grain were handled.

Government Fire Services

The functions of the Fire Services are prescribed in section 4 of the Fire Services Ordinance' No. 56 of 1953 ' and consist in taking all available measures with a view to extinguishing fires and to protecting life and property in case of fires in all areas outside the District and Town of Port Louis.

The Department comprises an Administrative Office in Port Louis and six Fire Stations which are situated at Curepipe, Rose Hill, Quatre Bornes, Rivière des Anguilles, Mahébourg and Piton. On the 31st December, 1955, the staff was composed of 1 Controller, 1 Office Supervisor, 1 Chief Officer, 2 Station Officers, 20 Sub Officers and 158 Firemen. Fifty seven recruits were enlisted as firemen during the year and were posted to the various stations, after having followed a two-month training course. The object of the recruitment was to effect a working tour of 24 hours at stations followed by an off-duty period of 24 hours, in contrast to the system of 48 hours on and 24 hours off-duty. The new system came into operation on the 1st April, 1955.

Eight members of the Service were successful in obtaining the First Aid Certificate of the St John Ambulance Association this year.

The Service responded to 281 fire calls, compared with 299 in the previous year. The loss, caused by fire, excluding loss in Port Louis Municipal area, was estimated at Rs 764,914 compared with Rs 459,348 in 1954. Appliances on fire calls, covered 7,478 vehicle miles.

Within the area covered by the Service, there were 692 fire hydrants on the 31st December, 1955, including 58 new hydrants installed during the year.

The number of requests for the attendance of firemen during presentations of stage plays was 87 and the attendance fees amounted to Rs 914.

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In accordance with section 4(2) of the Inflammable Liquids and Substances Ordinance, 68 certificates were issued by the Controller, Fire Services to the effect that the premises on which filling operations are to be carried out are adequately protected against fire.

Fire appliances in 53 Government buildings and in 35 cinema halls were tested.

Sixteen requests for pumping on sugar estates and private premises were attended to and fees for these attendances amounted to Rs 3,123.42.

New badges of rank and shoulder markings were approved by His Excellency the Governor.

The average cost per man in the Service during the year was Rs 3,723.47 while the cost of the Service per head of population (excluding the inhabitants of Port Louis) was Rs 1.50. The total revenue collected in 1954–55 was Rs 44,852.

The mobile appliances distributed to the various fire stations included 8 fire engines, 5 large and 10 small trailer pumps, 5 water lorries, 1 water trailer, 3 cars, 1 lorry, 1 towing unit, 2 foam vans, 2 hose carriers, 2 Land Rovers, 1 " scooter " motor cycle and 6 bicycles.

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A VIEW OF THE MAIN ROAD FROM PORT LOUIS TO CUREPIPE

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PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Railways

The public railway system of Mauritius (4'–8½" gauge) is operated by Government. The Railway network has 82 miles of line varying between sea level and an altitude of 1,800 feet. Both passenger and goods services are maintained, but the latter provides the bulk of the revenue. By law, heavy goods, (manufactured sugar, fertilizers, coal and gunny bags) must be transported by rail.

The deficit on the working of the railways amounted to Rs 1,891,028 for the financial year 1954–55. In order to effect economies the passenger service has been suppressed on the Curepipe—Mahebourg and North lines.

Statistics for the financial year ended the 30th June, 1955 are as follows:

Length of line open to traffic	Miles	82
Passengers carried	Number	1,126,846
Passenger Receipts	Rs	155,537
Parcels carried	Number	57,725
Parcels receipts	Rs	37,130
Goods Traffic :		
Sugar	Tons	418,444
Sugar Canes	Tons	2,394
General Merchandise	Tons	50,674
Goods Traffic Receipts :		
Sugar	Rs	3,248,095
Sugar Cane	Rs	4,330
General Merchandise	Rs	253,959
Train Mileage	Train Miles	198,423
Receipts per Train Mile	Rs	20.46
Expenditure per Train Mile	Rs	31.15
Road Motor Service:		
Total Passenger Vehicle Miles	...Vehicle Miles	123,268
Passengers carried	Number	385,483
Passenger Receipts	Rs	82,551
Parcels carried	Number	2,057
Parcels receipts	Rs	624
Goods Traffic by Road:		
Sugar	Tons	27,934
General Merchandise	Tons	9,366
Goods Receipts (Road):		
Sugar	Rs	175,922
General Merchandise	Rs	53,935
Number of vehicles in service:		
10 lorries and 7 trailers		
1 dual purpose vehicle		
2 buses		

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Bus Transport

The bus fleets, by the end of 1955, had increased to a total of 309 vehicles. Improvements in repair, maintenance, and construction of coachwork had been made. An average of 90,000 passengers travelled daily by bus.

Bus services replaced the railway passenger services on the Northern line and the Midland line between Curepipe and Mahebourg.

Road Haulage

There were 1,989 goods vehicles in use in 1955—an increase of 125 over the preceding year's figure. They are used mainly in connexion with the sugar industry for conveying cane to the factories and other materials to sugar estate. The trend towards replacing tramway haulage in the cane fields by motor vehicles and the extended acreage under cultivation have no doubt contributed substantially to the increase in the number of vehicles licensed.

Roads and Vehicles

Mauritius is provided with an extensive road system, consisting of some 716 miles of public main and branch roads, most of which are suitable for motor traffic. All the roads are metalled and about 338 miles are bitumen coated. Practically all the main roads are open to heavy motor vehicles, but owing to rapid development in road traffic during the past twenty years many of the roads are too narrow for moderately fast transport to operate in safety. There are also numerous blind corners, very populous villages to travel through, while the roads are further congested by the slow moving goods transport and the large public transport vehicles.

The maintenance of proclaimed main and branch roads continued in the normal manner and improvements were carried out to some of the existing tarred surfaces. An additional 9 miles of road was asphalted.

There were 10,066 motor vehicles in use in the Island in 1955, as compared to 9,209 in 1954, classified as:

Private cars	5,697
Lorries	1,989
Taxis	953
Buses	309
Motor Cycles	619
Tractors	120
Government Vehicles	379

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The annual licence duties payable in respect of motor vehicles are as follows:

(*a*) Motor cycles, per H.P.	6
(*b*) Private cars, per H.P.	8
(*c*)—(i) Taxis not exceeding 10 H.P.	108
(ii) For every additional H.P.	8
(*d*)—(i) Motor buses not more than 10 H.P. and having a seating capacity for not more than 20 passengers	512
(ii) for every additional H.P.	8
(*e*)—(i) Motor lorries not exceeding 10 H.P. ...	200
(ii) for every additional H.P.	8
(iii) per metric ton of maximum gross weight or fraction thereof	40

Public service and goods vehicles are licensed quarterly at proportional rates. Licence duty in respect of motor cycles and private cars may be effected quarterly or half yearly at the owner's option.

Visitors' licences, at the following rates, are payable in respect of privately owned motor cars and motor cycles belonging to persons on temporary visits to the Colony not exceeding 3 months:

Private cars	Rs 10 per month irrespective of H.P.
Motor cycles	Rs 2 per month irrespective of H.P.

No licence fee is charged on a privately owned car or motor cycle for a short stay in the Colony not exceeding one week.

AIR

There is only one airport in Mauritius. It is situated at Plaisance, in the south-east of the island about three miles from the coast, and is run by the Civil Aviation Department of the Mauritius Government. Air France have scheduled " Constellation " service twice weekly between Paris and Mauritius via Cairo, Nairobi, Madagascar and Reunion: the return flight Mauritius-Paris is along the same route. Qantas Empire Airways provide a scheduled " Super-Constellation " service between Sydney and Johannesburg via Melbourne, Perth, Cocos Islands and Mauritius and from South Africa to Australia via the same route. The Qantas Empire Airways service is at present once fortnightly in each direction.

No aircraft is based in Mauritius and no internal services exist.

During the course of the year new Wireless Telegraphy and Radio Telephony equipment and landing aids were received and installed at the airport by the staff of the Aeradio Division of the Civil Aviation Department.

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Air mail connection with all parts of the world is maintained by *Air France* with two flights weekly between Mauritius and Europe *via* Nairobi and Cairo. A direct air mail link with Australia and South Africa is provided by *Qantas Empire Airways* which operate a fortnightly service between Australia and South Africa, with a call at Mauritius in each direction. Air mail postage rates are charged on weight units of 5 grammes. The air mail postage rate to Europe and to India and Pakistan, the principal destinations of the Colony's outward correspondence, is 60 cents for 5 grammes. The Aerogramme or Air Letter Service operates to all destinations at the uniform rate of 35 cents.

The number of postal items handled during 1955 was approximately as follows:

Air Mail	2,771,490
Overseas surface mail	852,932
Inland Mail	4,655,440

The Government operates a ship to shore radio station which communicates with ships within a radius varying between 600 and 1,200 miles of Mauritius according to atmospheric conditions. The station handled 12,301 radiotelegrams during 1955 as compared with 14,663 during 1954.

Mauritius is linked to the rest of the world by cables and by radio installations which are operated and maintained by Cable and Wireless Limited. The Company has an office, a cable station and a radio station in Port Louis, and a cable station and an emergency radio installation on the island of Rodrigues. The major part of the foreign telegraph traffic concerns Port Louis and outward and inward telegrams from or for the Capital are accepted, for transmission or delivery, direct by Cable and Wireless Limited. In so far as other parts of the island are concerned, foreign telegrams are received at post offices and transmitted over land lines operated by the Posts and Telegraphs Department to the General Post Office in Port Louis, for outward transmission by Cable and Wireless; inward telegrams received by Cable and Wireless Limited are similarly transmitted by the General Post Office over the land lines to post offices, for delivery.

There are 210 miles of inland telegraph lines and the number of inland telegrams handled during 1955 was 15,487 as compared with 16,071 during 1954.

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The meteorological services at the airport are under the control of the Director of Observatory, who is responsible for providing forecasts and all other meteorological information required and meteorological observers are stationed at the airport.

Apart from normal air-ground telecommunication services daily point to point schedules were maintained throughout 1955 with East Africa (Nairobi), Madagascar, South Africa, Reunion and Cocos Islands. Daily point to point services for meteorological purposes were also maintained with St. Brandon, Agalega, Diego Garcia and Rodrigues.

Various improvements were made to the aerodrome during 1955 in order to provide required facilities for Super-Constellation aircraft. The length of the runway was extended by 643 feet at the north-west end, and an over-run of 200 feet was made at the south-east end. The taxiway has been widened and the dispersal point has been increased to twice its original size.

The total number of landings and take offs at Plaisance airport during the year amounted to 322. The number of incoming and outgoing passengers was 7,970 including 1,420 passengers in transit, as compared with 7,474 during 1954. Incoming and outgoing freight amounted to 73,812 kilos and mails carried to 29,346 kilos.

All aircraft calling at Plaisance were refuelled by the Refuelling Division at the airport. The total amount of aviation spirit and oil used for refuelling aircraft amounted to 309,255 gallons and 1,341 gallons respectively.

Posts and Telecommunications

The Posts and Telegraphs Department is responsible for the postal and telegraph services of the Colony and operates the Post Office Savings Bank. It also acts as an agent for a number of Government departments in so far as the collection of certain revenue and the making of certain payments are concerned. The Money Order Service is available for all parts of the world, and the British Postal Order Service for most Commonwealth countries.

The main Post Office is in Port Louis. There are besides 33 post offices and 42 postal agencies spread throughout the island and all classes of postal and telegraph business are transacted. Postal facilities are also available in the island of Rodrigues.

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The telephone system of Mauritius is operated and maintained by the Electricity and Telephones Department.

At the close of the year there were 5,020 exchange lines in service. In order to meet demands for new subscribers' services, extension equipment is being installed at three of the main telephone exchanges and additional underground cables are being laid in the various exchange areas.

At the 31st December, 1955, there were 10,710 miles of telephone wires and 6,875 telephone stations, an increase of 378 stations over the figure for the previous year. There are 13 exchanges in the Island, and the number of effective telephone calls originated during 1955 amounted to 6,243,854, as compared with 5,953,271 during 1954.

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Chapter 12: Press, Broadcasting, Films and Government Information Office

The Press

The history of the press in Mauritius has been traced as far back as 1773. One of the existing daily newspapers has had an uninterrupted existence of over 125 years and another one of 48 years. The languages used are French, English, Hindi and Chinese.

The following is a list of newspapers published in Mauritius:

Daily	Weekly
Advance	*Aryoday*
China Times	*L'Epee*
Chinese Daily News	*Mauritius Times*
Latest News	*La Vie Catholique*
Le Cerneen	
Le Mauricien	**Fortnightly**
The New Era	*J.O. et Tribune Libre*
	Le Progres Islamique
Twice Weekly	*La Voix de l'Islam*
Janata	*Zamana*

Many periodicals of general interest are also published.

Broadcasting

Before the Second World War, broadcasting in Mauritius was operated by a private commercial concern. During the war there were three stations in the Island, all partially or wholly controlled by Government. In 1944, Government decided to assume sole responsibility for broadcasting in the Colony and it set up its own organization, " The Mauritius Broadcasting Service ", which broadcasts material of a non-commercial nature.

Since 1944 the number of radio licences has increased from 2,746 to 21,103, of which 2,254 were in respect of new radio sets licensed in 1955.

In 1954–55, for the first time since its inception, the service became self-supporting when revenue amounting to Rs 308,033 from wireless licences exceeded recurrent expenditure by Rs 37,510.

For its capital expenditure the M.B.S. is relying at present mainly upon a sum of Rs 416,100 provided jointly out of the local funds and the Colonial Development and Welfare funds for the implementation of a scheme worked out in 1950 for the technical improvement of the M.B.S. By the end of the financial year Rs 153,468 had been spent on a transmitter building and on the

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purchase of new equipment. A revised scheme of technical improvement prepared in 1953 by Mr. W. A. Roberts, Colonial Office Adviser on Broadcasting, estimated to cost approximately Rs 1 million, was still under consideration at the end of the year.

The M.B.S. owns a 1½ Kw short wave transmitter and a 5 Kw medium wave transmitter broadcasting on 19.88 metres and 220 metres respectively, both of which are located at Forest Side in the district of Plaines Wilhems in a building which also houses the studios, the news service organization and the administrative section.

The M.B.S. goes on the air for an average of 57½ hours a week in four daily transmissions in the course of which English, French, Hindustani and two Chinese dialects are spoken. It also broadcasts token programmes in Tamil, Hindi, Urdu, Telegu and Swahili.

Owing to lack of local professional artists, the programmes are mainly made up of recorded music and of transcription recordings from the British Broadcasting Corporation and the "Radio-Diffusion et Télévision Française". The evening transmissions, however, include a fair proportion of 'live' items. Five news bulletins—one in English, three in French and one in Hindustani—covering a total of one hour are broadcast daily.

The Education Department broadcasts weekly during term time five programmes of 15 minutes' duration each.

The Globe Reuter News Service is monitored by the M.B.S. which distributes daily 117 duplicated copies of world news to the local press, Government Departments and the Military Authorities.

Information Services

The Public Relations Office keeps the public informed of the activities and policies of Government through the press, the broadcasting service and the mobile cinema units, with the object of bringing about a closer association between Government and the public. Information conveyed to the newspapers in the form of communiqués, press releases are readily accepted for publication. The number of notices and press releases issued by the Public Relations Office in 1955 continued to show an upward trend and the total for the year under review reached 907. Payment for two-thirds of this number was claimed by the press at the special rate agreed upon and the remaining one-third was published free of charge. Statements on important measures and changes in policy are also broadcast over the Mauritius Broadcasting Service.

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Press conferences held at the Public Relations Office in 1955 afforded journalists the opportunity to meet visitors of note, which included Sir Christopher Cox, K.C.M.G., Educational Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Dr. F. J. Harlow, M.B.E., Adviser on Technical Education to the Secretary of State for the Colonies and Mr. E. P. Keely, C.B.E., of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food in the United Kingdom. Press conferences were also held during which Heads of Departments dealt with points of policy.

An increasing number of visitors including journalists from overseas called at the Public Relations Office for information, and were put in touch with officials and other personalities.

The principal routine services performed by the Office are the preparation of a daily report on the local press and a weekly summary of leading articles and other important items. A press-cutting service designed for Heads of Departments is also operated by the Office. Good use was made of the translation facilities available at the Public Relations Office. The preparation of the French version of the brochure designed to illustrate the statement by the Financial Secretary on the draft Estimates of revenue and expenditure for 1955–56 and a French translation of the Highway Code were both entrusted to the Office. The distribution of books, pamphlets, periodicals, photographs and publicity material to public libraries, schools and village councils is one of the chief activities of the Office.

A leaflet containing information on the island was compiled for visitors and overseas correspondents. The demand for copies from the Imperial Institute, and from local primary and secondary schools, Government departments, shipping agencies and the Mauritius Tourist and Travel Bureau testified to its usefulness.

Continuing the dissemination of information about Mauritius in Great Britain and in other countries, articles and photographs on development in Mauritius were published in the ' Times British Colonies Review ', ' To-day ', (the illustrated magazine published by the C.O.I.) and in a number of technical publications.

On the occasion of World Health Day, special film shows were given by the mobile cinema units in rural areas.

It devolves upon the Public Relations Office to revise annually the sections devoted to Mauritius in reference books. Notes on Mauritius were included in two such books in which Mauritius had not yet figured.

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Films

During the year, a notable achievement of the Visual Education Branch of the Education Department was the completion of a 16mm documentary film on the Mauritius dependencies. The film had a very warm reception from audiences ranging from villagers to school children and members of learned societies. It was shown all over the island by the mobile cinema unit of the Education Department and by the two mobile cinema units of the Public Relations Office.

Attending the cinema is one of the most popular recreations in Mauritius and films are consequently an effective instrument for reaching the people in rural areas. The shows given by the mobile cinema units of the Public Relations Office were attended by an audience estimated at more than three hundred thousand. According to information compiled by the office, annual attendances at shows in the commercial cinemas exceeded four million people. Most of the more important villages now have a local cinema hall.

Increasing demand was made on the film loan service of the Public Office. Over 820 films, against 378 during the previous year, were circulated free of charge.

The distribution of the 35mm version of " British News " is a responsibility of the Public Relations Office. The three main cinema companies receive one copy of each issue for which they pay a hire fee. Documentary films supplied by the Central Office of Information are circulated free of charge to the cinema companies.

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Chapter 13: Local Forces

The Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force

The Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force was created in 1949. Its strength on the 31st December, 1955, was as follows: 11 permanent ratings, 27 volunteer ratings and 9 probationary recruits.

Drills were held on every Monday and Friday and sea training was carried out on Thursdays. The attendance was very satisfactory.

Eleven permanent ratings were embarked in H.M.S. *Loch Killisport* for sea training from the 19th September to 14th October, when His Excellency the Governor visited the dependencies.

All ratings have to undergo 14 days' continuous training each year and this training was held as usual at Cannoniers' Point between the 24th October and the 6th November. The attendance was good. His Excellency the Governor visited the Camp on the 5th November.

The Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force was inspected by the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station on the 3rd June and by His Excellency the Governor on the 17th September.

A platoon of 24 ratings and one Officer took part in Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Parade on the 9th June.

The following warships visited Mauritius during the year:

The French Training Ship *Jeanne d'Arc* escorted by *La Grandière,* from the 12th to 17th January.

H.M.S. *Birmingham,* between the 17th and 19th May.

H.M.S. *Gambia,* Flagship of the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station, between the 3rd and 10th June.

H.M. Submarine *Acheron,* on the 8th August.

The French Ship *La Gazelle,* between the 10th and 14th September.

H.M.S. *Loch Killisport,* between the 17th and 19th September and the 14th and 20th October.

Facilities for instructional training kindly placed at the disposal of the Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force by Commanding Officers were much appreciated.

Two ratings were discharged on completion of service, 2 left Mauritius and 4 were released from the service on obtaining civil employment.

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Commander C. R. E. de Jersey, R.N. (Ret.), Commanding Officer, Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force, went on overseas leave on the 10th December and was replaced by Lieutenant Commander G. N. J. Hooper R.N., Commander de Jersey is due to return in August, 1956.

The Army

The enlistment of Mauritians in the Royal Pioneer Corps was stopped in 1955 owing to the evacuation of the Suez Canal Zone. Consequently, only 11 were sent for service overseas and 6,440 were discharged during the year. It is regretted that 3 men died overseas.

Guards of Honour, consisting of K.A.R. and Mauritius Naval Volunteer Force personnel as well as Naval and Marine personnel from H.M.S. *Gambia*, were provided for Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday parade on the 9th June. Guards of Honour were also provided by K.A.R. and Royal Pioneer Corps personnel on Remembrance Day, and by K.A.R. personnel on the 14th July and on the occasion of the opening of the Legislative Council.

The Commander in Chief, East Africa Lieutenant-General G. W. Lathbury, C.B., D.S.O., M.B.E., visited the island from the 15th to the 20th October and was met on his arrival by a Guard consisting of Royal Pioneer Corps personnel.

The detachment of the 6th Battalion King's African Rifles was replaced by another detachment of the same Regiment in November.

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Chapter 14: General

Cultural and Scientific Organisations

The Mauritius Institute

The Mauritius Institute traces its origin to the year 1880 when an Ordinance was passed " to establish and incorporate a Public Institute, to be called the Mauritius Institute, a Public Museum and a Public Library, for the purposes of promoting the general study and cultivation of the various branches and departments of Arts, Science, Literature and Philosophy, and for the instruction and recreation of the people."

The foundation stone of the present building was laid on the 23rd of November, 1880, by Sir George Bowen, then Governor. The building was completed in 1884 and in the course of the following year the Natural History Museum, known as the " Desjardins Museum ", until then housed in a wing of the Royal College in Port Louis, was transferred to the new building. The public library was opened in 1903, following the munificent bequest of Sir Virgile Naz Library which forms the nucleus of the present collection. The Institute has expanded its activities over the years and to-day it comprises a Public Library, a Natural History Museum, an Historical Museum, and a small Art Gallery.

The Institute is managed by a Board of Directors consisting of eight members appointed annually by the Governor and of such persons as may be recommended by any literary and scientific society associated with the Institute. The staff consist of a Director, a Librarian, a Curator, and eight other officers.

The Public Library

The Mauritius Institute Public Library is free to readers, but a deposit of Rs 10 is required from borrowers. The stock of about 50,000 volumes comprises an almost equal number of French and English fiction and non-fiction books and a small percentage of Oriental books. A large variety of periodicals are also received at regular intervals and placed at the disposal of readers.

The Library has a valuable collection of Mauritiana and a reference section on the Natural History of the Mascarene Islands and the neighbouring regions. The library of the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius forms part of this section.

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Several changes and improvements have been made in the library generally. The number of registered borrowers has increased from about 200 in 1945 to more than a thousand in 1955, while the number of visits of readers who frequented the library during the year was of the order of 26,000.

The Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum is mainly regional in character and contains representative collections of the fauna, flora and geology of Mauritius and of the neighbouring islands. The Museum was closed during the year on account of structural alterations to the building and a re-arrangement of the exhibits on an educational and ecological basis.

The bird section contains specimens of most of the one hundred species of the birds of Mauritius. They have been grouped as shore birds, marsh birds, sea birds, game birds and land birds. The endemic species, of which nine are still occurring on a total of twenty-four, are displayed separately. The extinct species are shown by means of feathered restorations and paintings, and in some cases by actual skeletons. The Dodo is exhibited together with its relatives which inhabited the neighbouring islands of Réunion and Rodrigues. The species which was found in Réunion was known as the " White Dodo "; it is known only from historical evidence and by a 17th century painting, a reproduction of which is exhibited in the Museum. The Rodrigues *Solitaire* is exemplified by a genuine skeleton and by a water-colour reproduction of the feathered bird. The Museum also possesses the only known skeleton of the Mauritius flightless Red Hen, *(Aphanapteryx bonasia)* and one of the three stuffed examples of the Mauritius Dutch Pigeon *(Alectroenas nitidissima)*, a species which became extinct about one hundred years ago.

In the mammal section are found examples of the very few species occurring in the island which, with the exception of bats, have all been introduced by man at various times. These include the Javanese Deer imported by the Dutch, a Borneo Macaque released in the island by the Portuguese, the Wild Pig and the Indian Hare.

In the reptile section are exhibited examples of the giant species of tortoises, extinct or still living, peculiar to the Indian Ocean islands, and of various kinds of turtles found in the region. The geckos, lizards and snakes of the island are exhibited including the very curious Round Island snakes, two species of which are occurring and are considered to be " living fossils ".

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The fish section displays examples of the numerous species found in the territorial waters of the island, all of them stuffed and painted in their natural colours. Fresh-water fishes, comprising about twenty-five species, some indigenous, others introduced, are also exhibited.

A large number of Echinoderms (sea-stars and urchins) live in the region and examples of nearly all the species, including a few almost unique ones, are represented in the Museum.

The mollusca section has a rich collection and the island is reputed for its extremely large variety of sea-shells, though most of these occur as well in all the Indo-Pacific region. The land shell fauna, comprising about two hundred species, is less spectacular but is scientifically more important, as many groups are peculiar to the island. The fresh water mollusca are insignificant, except from a medical point of view, one species being known to transmit a serious disease.

The museum also possesses local collections of crustaceans, insects, corals and plants.

Biological Research

The very interesting remnants of the indigenous land fauna and flora, together with the rich marine life of the surrounding seas present excellent opportunities for biological research. Scientific collections of all groups are made and these are studied overseas and locally by experts, the results being published in the Mauritius Institute Bulletin and in specialized publications abroad.

Art Gallery

A small art gallery is attached to the Port Louis Museum, consisting mainly of a collection of paintings presented to the Institute in 1921 by the late Mr. Edgar de Rochecouste. This collection includes a certain number of paintings of well-known artists, such as Ziem, Le Sidaner, Harpignies, and Jacques-Emile Blanche. A small section is devoted to the works of local artists.

The Historical Museum

A subsidiary museum devoted to local history has been opened in an old French house at Mahébourg recently acquired by Government. It was in this house that Monsieur de Robillard, the French Commandant of Grand Port, received the two wounded commanders of the English and French squadrons, admirals Willoughby and Duperré, during the well-known naval battle of August 1810. Several objects connected with this episode and recovered one

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hundred and twenty-four years later from the wreck of the *Magicienne*, one of the English frigates sunk in Grand Port bay during the engagement, are exhibited. These objects include a portion of the ship's hulk, several heavy guns and carronades, cannon balls, grape-shot, copper coins, pieces of sailor's uniform and various other relics.

The capture of the island by the British at the beginning of December 1810 is illustrated by a series of coloured prints drawn on the spot by Temple.

A section of the museum is devoted to the display of a valuable collection of maps, charts, engravings and watercolours (many in original) which serve to introduce the visitor to the various periods of the history of Mauritius from its discovery to the present time. Worthy of special mention in this section are a portulan map published at Amsterdam in 1595 (probably the most accurate map of the region available at the time of the first Dutch visit to Mauritius in 1590), an English map of Mauritius by Mount and Page published in 1745 and derived from a Dutch source, Abbé de la Caille's map (1753) which is the first accurate map of the Island, Bellin's map of 1763, and two maps by Lislet Geoffroy, published by the English Admiralty in 1813 and 1814. Modern maps are also shown, including the fine one-inch map by Descubes (1880) which is of great practical interest as it indicates the site of over a thousand concessions.

Among the series of lithographs and water-colours recording the life, scenery and customs of different periods may be noted six water-colours by Kelsey (early 1840's), coloured prints by Thuillier, coloured lithographs by Bradshaw and Rider (1831–32), water-colours by Leroy (1860's), and a water-colour panoramic view of Mauritius, sketched from the Port Louis Harbour by Augustus Earle who was on board the " Beagle " when Charles Darwin visited Mauritius in 1836.

A few pieces of local furniture belonging to the French Governor Mahé de Labourdonnais (1699–1753) and exhibits from the East Indiaman *Kent* which was captured by Robert Surcouf *Roi des Corsaires* in the Bay of Bengal in October 1800 are on view.

Relics connected with the activities of the French privateers in the Indian Ocean at the beginning of the 19th century are also displayed.

Part of a room of the Museum is devoted to the history of transport in Mauritius exemplified by two *palanquins* and a *Chaise à porteurs* which were in use before the era of roads and wheeled traffic.

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A small exhibit is devoted to the history of the famous " Post Office " stamp of Mauritius (1847) and is illustrated by reprints of the stamp.

Among miscellaneous items of interest may be cited: maps and objects rescued from some memorable shipwrecks in the region, the portraits or busts of certain French and British Governors (Mahé de Labourdonnais, Charles Decaen, Robert Farquhar, Lowry Cole, John Pope Hennessy), and the Roll of Honour of the Mauritian soldiers who lost their lives in the Second World War.

Learned Societies

The following scientific and literary societies are associated with the Mauritius Institute:—

(1) *The Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius* was founded in 1829 under the name of *Société d'Histoire Naturelle* and was honoured in 1847 by a permission of Queen Victoria to add the word " Royal " to its name. Its activities extend to most branches of natural history. Lectures on science and art are delivered by its members from time to time and also by visiting professors, artists and scientists. Proceedings of the Society, containing papers read before the Society, are published annually. The Society owns a library which contains many rare and valuable books and periodicals on natural history.

(2) *The Société de Technologie Agricole et Sucrière de Maurice* is a technical body founded in 1910 and devoted to the study of questions relating to agriculture and to sugar technology. The papers and proceedings of the Society are published in the bi-monthly *Revue Agricole*.

(3) *The Société des Ecrivains Mauriciens* was founded in 1938 with the object of encouraging the publication of literary works, and of establishing contacts with literary institutions overseas.

(4) *The Indian Cultural Association* was founded in 1936 with the object of promoting Indian culture in Mauritius and of fostering spiritual ties with India. It publishes a quarterly journal called " The Indian Cultural Review ".

The Mauritius Archives

The Mauritius Archives Office is not only one of the oldest departments of the Colony, dating from the early years of the French settlement, but it is also one of the oldest archive centres of the Southern Hemisphere, ranking only after the Cape and Réunion repositories

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Under French rule the Office was a branch of the *Conseil Supérieur* and received special attention from the authorities. An early instance of the interest of the French Government in colonial archives is provided by the edict of 1770, which set up a central *Dépôt des Chartes des Colonies* at Versailles and enacted regulation for their better preservation. Another important measure was the establishment in Mauritius in 1808 of a *Dépôt des Cartes de la Marine* which, for a long time, supplied sailors and travellers in the South Indian Ocean with valuable information.

At the time of the land fighting which led to the surrender of the Island by the French, the local archives were removed from Port Louis to a safer place of custody in Plaines Wilhems and thus escaped damage. In 1815, after the final cession of Mauritius to Great Britain, they were handed over to the British Authorities in an almost complete state, as comparatively few of the records were retained by the French Government.

Until 1949 the Archives were attached to the Registrar General's Department, and from January, 1950, to the Central Administration. By Ordinance No. 71 of 1952 they were transferred to an Archives Department which is now the central repository of all public archives.

The Archives Office is now divided into the following sections:

(i) the Repository which comprises, *inter alia*, the records of the old French Administration (1721–1810), records of the British Administration (from 1810), notarial records, and private records.

(ii) the Library which, besides being the official registry of all publications issued in Mauritius, contains Mauritiana printed abroad, reference books on general history, colonial history and archivology with a section devoted to collections of stamps, seals, currency notes and other materials.

(iii) the Land Registry which comprises the records of the former Land Court, memoranda of surveys deposited by sworn land surveyors, with a section containing maps, charts and plans.

The Department is also equipped with a Photostat and a Duostat for the photocopying of records and the supply of copies to Government Departments and to the public.

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The control and disposal of records is supervised by a Public Archives Records Destruction Committee consisting of the Chief Archivist, the Principal Auditor, the Director of Statistics and a Law Officer of the Crown. The Chief Archivist also inspects regularly archives in the custody of agencies other than the main repository.

Publications include the annual report, the quarterly *Memoranda* of books and periodicals issued in Mauritius and registered in the Archives, and the publications issued by the Archives Publication Fund Committee (established in 1951).

The bibliographical survey of Mauritiana started in 1951 was completed in February 1955. The book, including about 1,000 pages and comprising altogether 8,865 entries, is expected to come out in 1956 under the title of *Bibliography of Mauritius, 1502–1954*. It is not just a descriptive bibliography of the usual type; it is rather a manual of documentation with a much fuller scope, compiled with particular attention to historical development and with the main object of meeting the needs of those interested in history. To keep it up to date, it is proposed to issue every year as an appendix to the *Annual Report of the Archives Department* a bibliographical supplement including additional material recorded during each successive year from 1955 onwards.

The British Council

The main feature of the Council's work in Mauritius, on this, its twenty-first birthday year was the development of the Centre in Rose Hill. It was felt that the objects of the Council, the broader diffusion of knowledge and understanding of the British Way of Life, the stimulating of cultural life in Mauritius and the bringing together of people of similar tastes and interests could be best served in this way. The library therefore, which had previously been accomodated in the library of the Beau Bassin—Rose Hill Town Council and had outgrown the space available for it there, was transferred to the Centre and, with the reading room, was reopened in November. At the same time a weekly programme of lectures, play readings, films or recitals of recorded music was instituted. By the end of the year there were 300 adult and over 400 student members.

The development of the Centre complemented but in no way replaced the Council's extra mural activities and, in particular, films were shown to institutions in all parts of the island.

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In June the Representative's annual introductory course was held for students proceeding to higher studies in the United Kingdom. It was attended by 32 students and government officials granted study leave and all these were met on arrival in England and accomodation was found for them.

A six month bursary was awarded to the surveyor of the Beau Bassin—Rose Hill Town Council to enable him to study municipal housing and town planning in the United Kingdom. The British Council's Visitors Department in London arranged programmes for several Mauritian visitors to London.

Events arranged to celebrate Shakespeare's birthday, in April, included performances of extracts from the plays, an exhibition, broadcasts and literary competitions.

Société de l'Histoire de l'Ile Maurice

This society was founded in 1938 to foster and encourage the study of the Colony's history by the collection of documents on local history, publication of historical works, and the organisation of historical exhibitions and lectures.

One of the principal activities of the Society has been the production of the Dictionary of Mauritian Biography, twenty-four parts of which have already appeared. These contain about one thousand biographies of persons connected with Mauritius by birth or residence.

The Society awards prizes to schoolchildren to encourage the study of Mauritian history. It keeps in touch and exchanges publications with oversea institutions of like interests and collects material from the Archives at the Cape, the Hague, Djakarta, Paris, London and Lisbon.

British Medical Association, Mauritius Branch

A branch of the British Medical Association was founded in 1939. Membership is granted to all medical practitioners who have qualified for registration in Mauritius, including those holding French qualifications. The Branch represents the majority of the doctors in the Island and close collaboration is maintained between Government and the profession. The advice of the Branch has frequently been sought by Government on Development and Welfare questions and health and other needs of the community.

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Le Cercle Littéraire de Port Louis

The principal object of this Society is to seek to bring together all those interested in French culture and ideals. Its aims are to encourage among the Mauritian people the study of the French language and literature and to promote their diffusion by means of annual competitions and public lectures. A review, *L'Essor,* is published by this Society.

Alliance Française

The Mauritius Branch of the Alliance Française was founded in 1884 with the object of encouraging the study of the French language by means of French courses in schools and annual examinations as well as meetings and conferences on French literature and art.

Mauritius Dramatic Club

The first record of an organised amateur theatrical production in Mauritius goes back as far as the 25th April, 1848, when officers of the 5th Battalion, the Northumberland Fusiliers, staged three one-act plays at the Port Louis Theatre.

A Mauritius Amateur Dramatic Club was formed in 1898 and stage productions and play readings were regularly featured until the 1914–1918 War.

The present Mauritius Dramatic Club owes its origin to a revival in theatrical activity which began in early 1920 and which ultimately led to the formation of the Club in 1932. Since then stage plays, play readings and broadcasts have been frequently presented.

The Vacoas House of Debaters

This association, founded in 1936, takes a special interest in general educational and cultural development.

Fortnightly meetings are held for debates and plays, and occasional radio programmes are presented on the Mauritius Broadcasting Service. Lectures by eminent outside personalities are delivered from time to time.

A Scholarship Fund, authorized by Government, provides for the educational needs of pupil-members taking a secondary course of studies. A Girls' section was started in January 1952 for the welfare of girls of 12 and upwards.

Volley ball, table-tennis, outings, open air camping are some of the recreational activities.

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The Mental and Physical Culture Association

The principal aims of this Association are to encourage the study of the English language and literature and to assist its members to obtain facilities for enjoying sports such as tennis and football.

The Hindi Pracharini Sabha and the Mauritius Hindi Parishad

These societies were established with the object of promoting and encouraging the study of Hindi in Mauritius. Efforts are being made by the managing committees to produce a uniform curriculum and to improve the standard of teaching. Collaboration with the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan of Allahabad, India, is maintained for the holding of examinations in higher Hindi in Mauritius.

The P.E.N. Club de l'Océan Indien

The Mauritius section of the " Fédération Internationale des P.E.N. Clubs " was founded in Mauritius in 1951. It seeks to promote a spirit of understanding and friendship among the writers of all sections of the community and also among those of the neighbouring islands.

The Young Men's Christian Association (Mauritius)

The Mauritius YMCA was founded in collaboration with the London Central YMCA and officially inaugurated in August, 1952, by a delegate of the World's Alliance of YMCAs.

The Association has been given the status of a Voluntary Educational Centre for Mauritius by the United Nations.

Membership is open to all, irrespective of age, creed or community.

The English Association

Founded in 1946, the English Association is the outcome of a movement started by a group of English and Mauritian ladies and gentlemen with the prime object of helping Mauritian secondary school children who were learning English to a better knowledge of the tongue and to a fuller acquaintance with English literature and culture. These school children, usually weak in spoken English through lack of practice, were above all to be given opportunities of speaking English and of hearing it spoken by English people.

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The Association, which has a membership of about 60 and works in close co-operation with the British Council, tries to achieve its aims by engaging in as many activities as possible likely to be of assistance to students of English language and literature. Film shows, dramatic performances, and broadcasts in English are arranged for school children and essay-writing competitions are run. Above all, annual competitions in elocution, acting and choral singing are held and the prize-winners take part in a public recital. The number of schools taking part in these competitions is steadily increasing.

The Association has since its foundation been honoured with the patronage of the Governors of the Colony, its first Patron having been Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, K.C.M.G.

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PART III

Chapter 1: Geography and Climate

GEOGRAPHY

Mauritius is a small island extending over an area of approximately 720 square miles, situated in the Indian Ocean, between 19° 58′ and 20° 32′ South Lattitude, and the meridians of 57° 17′ and 57° 46′ East Longitude. It is almost surrounded by a fringing coral reef. The northern part of the island is a fairly flat plain which rises gently towards the central plateau. Elsewhere the coastal plain is narrow and the ascent to the central plateau abrupt. Bordering the central plateau there are three main mountain ranges with rocky peaks, the highest of which is 2,711 feet. Apart from these ranges, there are many other isolated hills and peaks. There are numerous small rivers throughout the island, the longest being about 25 miles. Most of the rivers are short and fast-flowing owing to the steepness of the slope from the central plateau to the sea. Waterfalls are not uncommon in Mauritius and some of the larger have been harnessed to supply hydro-electric power. There are only two natural lakes on the island, Grand Bassin and Bassin Blanc. Five reservoirs supply water for domestic use, irrigation and hydro-electric purposes.

Mauritius is one of the most thickly populated countries in the world; its 720 square miles carry a population of 560,000, i.e., about 778 inhabitants per square mile—a staggering figure for an agricultural country. The population, of the main towns is as follows:

Port Louis	77,400
Curepipe	24,500
Quatre Bornes	19,200
Rose Hill—Beau Bassin ...	31,400

The chief industry of the island is sugar production and sugarcane fields may be seen all over the island. From the hill tops the ground looks like an immense green lawn, regularly intersected by silver-grey and black ribbons of roads. Remnants of the native forests of the island cover a total area of some 15,000 acres: they are to be found in the mountainous and less accessible regions. The Forest Department is actively replanting with exotic tree species—principally Pines, Eucalyptus, Camphor, Juniper, and Araucarias—those areas where secondary scrub forest has replaced native forests which were cleared many years ago in the process of extending sugarcane cultivation. All round the coast there is a fringe of either casuarina (" filaos ") or coconut trees.

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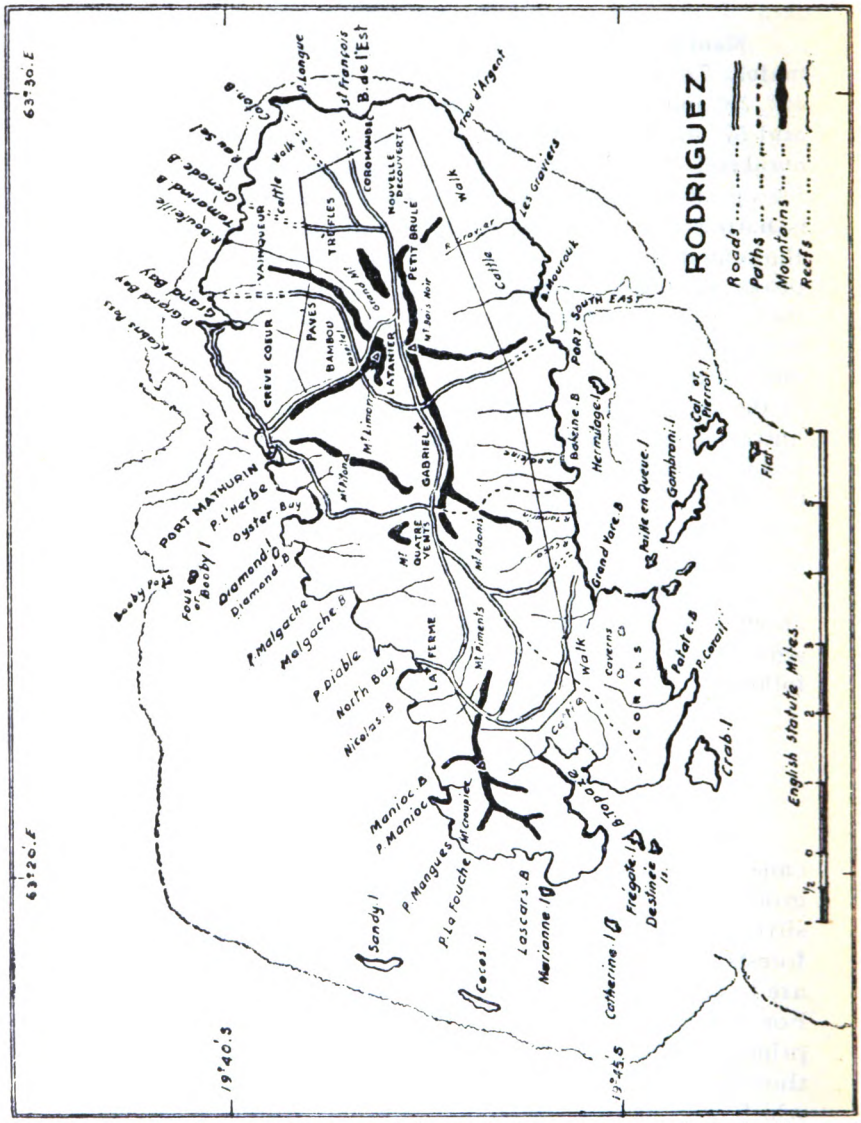
Rodrigues, the principal dependency, is a mountainous island of volcanic formation encircled by a coral reef and has a total area of about 40 square miles. It measures 9½ miles in length by 4½ miles in width and has a population of about 15,600 inhabitants mostly fishermen and small cultivators. Soil erosion in Rodrigues is causing the


RODRIGUEZ
Roads
Paths
Mountains
Reefs
English Statute Miles
63°30'.E
63°20'.E
19°40'.3
19°45'.5
PORT MATHURIN
PORT SOUTH EAST
GRAND BAY
GABRIEL
MT. LIMON
MT. MALAKOFF
MT. QUATRE VENTS
MT. ADENIS
MT. PIMENTS
MT. MOURAUK
MT. BOIS NOIR
PETIT BRULE
CREVE COEUR
PAVES
BAMBOU
LATANIER
TRIOLETS
VAINQUEUR
CORMORAN
NOUVELLE DECOUVERTE
LES GIROFLIERS
Cattle Walk
Walk
Caves
CAVERNS
Oyster Bay
Diamond B.
Malgache B.
North Bay
Nicolas B.
Maniac B.
Mt. Mangues
La Fouche
Lascars B.
Marianne I.
Catherine I.
Frégate I.
Destinée I.
Sandy I.
Cocos I.
Crab I.
Hermitage I.
Gombroni I.
Fidi I.
Palate B.
Grand Vare B.
Baleine B.
Cat. of Perrot I.
Anse Ally
Anse Quitor
Anse Ste Anne
Anse Grande
Anse Mourouk
Anse Ste Marie
Anse Mathurin
Anse Boileau
Anse Ste Rose
Anse Ste Rose
Anse Ste Rose

The Colony is comparatively isolated in the Indian Ocean 500 miles east of Madagascar. Strategically, it is placed at the crossing of the sea routes linking Australia, India and the East Indies with South Africa. Steamers, *en route* from the Far East to South Africa, call regularly at Mauritius, as do the French ships, serving the neighbouring French island of Réunion. During the war a modern airport was built at Plaisance, in the southern part of the island and there are regular air services linking Mauritius with Europe, South Africa and Australia.

The Colony of Mauritius has a number of island dependencies in the Indian Ocean. These are: Rodrigues 350 miles to the east, Chagos Archipelago 1,180 miles north-east in the direction of Ceylon, Agalega 580 miles and Cargados Carajos 250 miles north of Mauritius.

Agalega consists of two small islands, separated by a narrow strip of sandbank. This dependency is the main source of copra for the edible oil industry of Mauritius.

The archipelago of Cargados Carajos, usually referred to by the name of the principal islet, St. Brandon, is a fishing station leased to a Mauritian Company. At present the fish taken in the waters of St. Brandon are dried and salted for export to Mauritius.

Climate

Mauritius lies just within the tropics, but it is a small land mass without any large land area in its vicinity. It has, therefore, a maritime climate, tropical maritime during summer and subtropical in winter. This differs appreciably from the climate of a place on the same latitude on a large continent. Very high temperatures are not experienced in summer, nor particularly low ones in winter. Except in localities at or near sea-level, especially along the north-west coast and during occasional dry spells, rainfall is sufficient to maintain a green cover of vegetation throughout the year. On the other hand, owing to the high relative humidity, there are periods in summer, particularly when there is little or no wind, when considerable physical discomfort is felt, especially at or near sea-level, even though the temperatures are not extremely high. On the central plateau, which is between 1,000 and 2,000 feet above sea-level, it is comparatively cool almost all the year round. Heavy rains fall in summer, though there is no regular rainy season. In winter, it is cold and wet on the higher parts but cool round the coast. During this period there is a general exodus to the seaside. The bathing beaches with their white coral sand and calm, safe lagoons for bathing,

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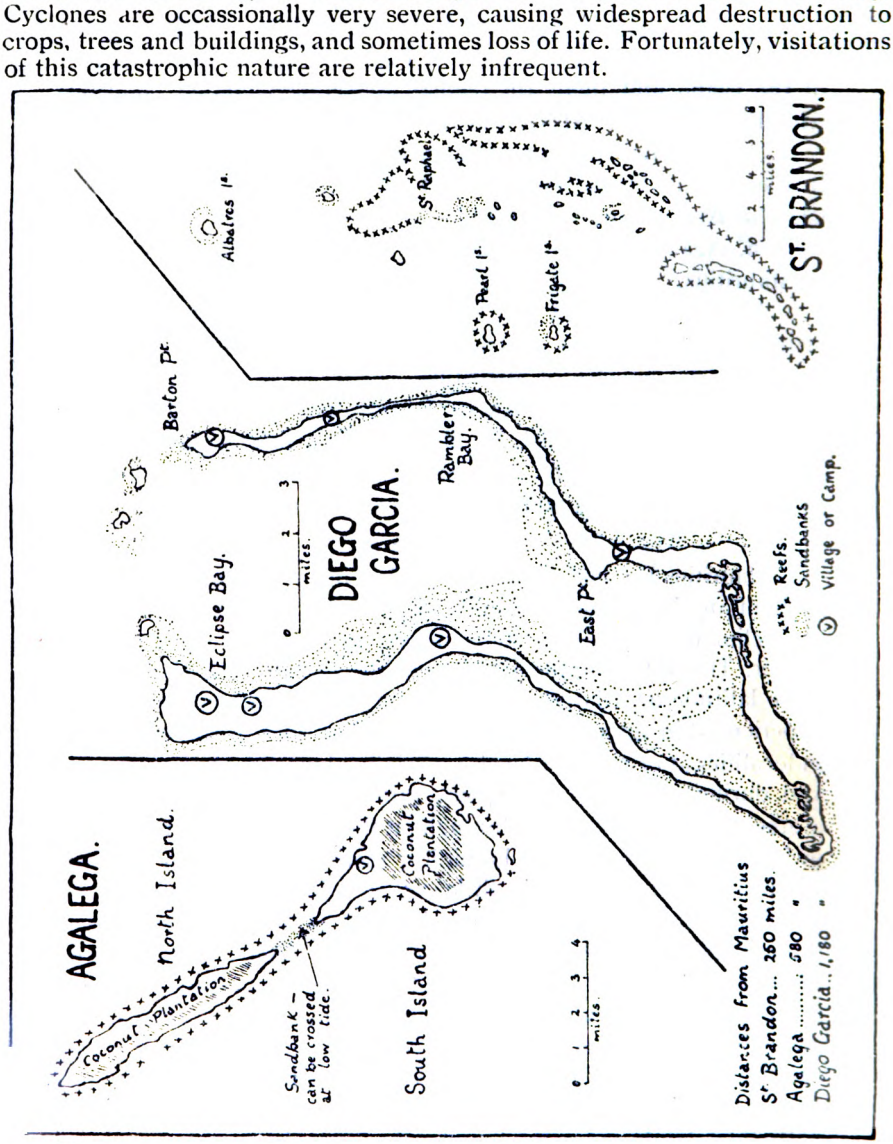
fishing, swimming and boating are attractive and have been favourably compared by travellers with the well-known tourist resorts of Hawaii and other Pacific Islands.

The island is in the region of tropical cyclones of the South Indian Ocean; the official cyclone season begins in November and ends in May. Cyclones are occassionally very severe, causing widespread destruction to crops, trees and buildings, and sometimes loss of life. Fortunately, visitations of this catastrophic nature are relatively infrequent.



Chagos consists of five groups of coral islands, the biggest of which is Diego Garcia. The horseshoe-shaped ribbon of land lying just above sea-level, surrounds a lagoon thirteen miles long and between four and five miles wide. Diego Garcia was of strategic importance during World War II.

The following is a summary of the main climatological features.

Seasons

The year can be divided approximately into two seasons: summer, from November to April and winter, from May to October, though April to June, and the months September and October can be looked upon as transitional periods. The driest period from September to November is probably the pleasantest part of the year in all parts of the island.

Rainfall

The average annual rainfall, at or near sea-level, is 50 inches or less, the minimum being about 30 inches in the western and north-western coastal areas. The amount increases steadily with altitude, and reaches nearly 200 inches on the highest part of the central plateau, at about 2,000 feet above sea-level.

Summer rainfall produces by far the larger proportion of the total for the year and has three main sources. The first, very common in late November and in December, comes from instability showers or " convectional " rain falling in the early afternoon in calm, or nearly calm weather. The second is associated with generally cloudy weather in troughs of low pressure. The third comes from tropical cyclones which, if at a distance from the island, often give beneficial rain without destructive wind force but which cause much damage and very excessive rainfall if passing over or near to the island.

Winter rainfall is mostly of an orographic nature, produced by the lifting and cooling of the trade wind stream as it passes over the island. It is in the form of light rain or drizzle, most of which falls over the central high ground, particularly on the south-eastern side.

True droughts are rare, except near sea-level, but the very large deficiencies which occur from time to time, more often in early summer, are particularly important during the season of rapid growth of the sugarcane from December to April.

Temperatures

The mean temperature varies from 74°F, at sea-level to 67°F. at 2,000 feet, and the mean annual range is 11°F. The highest and lowest values recorded at the Observatory, Pamplemousses, at an altitude of 180 feet, are 94·8°F and 49·9°F respectively, and the minimum at 1,850 feet is 44·9°F. The mean daily range is 13·5°F.

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Humidity

The mean monthly relative humidity increases from about 70 per cent near sea-level in October and November to nearly 90 per cent at 1,850 feet in March. One hundred per cent humidity is quite frequently attained on the highest parts of the plateau and occasionally near sea-level. The lowest value recorded at the Observatory, Pamplemousses is 33 per cent. The mean daily range varies from 19 per cent in April to 31 per cent in November at 180 feet.

Sunshine

The average number of hours per day of bright sunshine is 7·8 at 180 feet and 7·0 at 1,400 feet. October to December are the months with most sunshine.

Winds

During the winter months, with only occasional interruptions due to low pressure south of Mauritius, the island experiences steady south-east to east-south-east trade winds of moderate strength. Occasionally they become fairly strong for a day or two but do not reach gale force.

In summer the trades are normally of light to moderate force from the east or east-north-east and interruptions are much more frequent. When these interruptions are due to low pressure to the west or south the winds become northerly or westerly and are very humid and rather warm; when due to a tropical cyclone they may come from any direction and be of any force up to hurricane strength.

Tropical Cyclones

Cyclones occur during the summer season, usually between November and May but they have been known to affect Mauritius slightly, on rare occasions, in September and October. The greatest frequency of occurrence is in January and February but March is also an important month as cyclones occurring then damage the more fully grown sugarcane crop to a greater extent.

Over the period for which data are available, nearly 100 years, cyclones have caused winds with gust speeds reaching about 100 miles per hour on two or three occasions and gust speeds reaching 60 miles per hour on about thirty occasions. The highest wind speeds so far recorded were in April, 1892, when the average wind speed over a whole hour reached 76 miles per hour and gust speeds were estimated at 114 miles per hour. The winds near the centre of a tropical cyclone are extremely gusty and this, as well as the tor-

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rential rain that occurs, adds very considerably to the damage caused to the weaker buildings and to the summer vegetation which is in its most luxuriant state.

The distribution of cyclones over the years is very irregular. It is possible, as in 1945, for the island to be struck by two destructive cyclones in a matter of weeks: on the other hand periods of 5 years and more sometimes occur with no gale winds. This year was the ninth in succession in which no damage was caused by cyclones –the length of this period of freedom from such catastrophes has never been equalled in the past 100 years.

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Chapter 2: History

The island of Mauritius was probably visited both by Arab sailors and by Malays during the Middle Ages, and on maps of about 1500 it is shown with an Arabic name. During the early sixteenth century Portuguese sailors visited it several times, and the first European to discover Mauritius is believed to have been Domingos Fernandez. The island appears on many sixteenth century maps with the Portuguese name of Cerné or Cirné.

Dutch sailors first visited the island in 1598 and renamed it Mauritius, after their ruler Prince Maurice of Nassau; later they made frequent calls on their trading expeditions to the East Indies. First-hand accounts of these visits exist, and of visits by English, French and Danish ships, which called at Mauritius for water, food and cargoes of ebony wood. An English trading company planned to occupy the island, but was forestalled in 1638 by a Dutch company, whose settlement lasted (with a gap from 1658 to 1664) until 1710. It was from Mauritius in 1642 that Tasman set out on his most important voyage of Australasian discovery.

The Dutch settlers never numbered much over three hundred (adults, children and slaves all counted) and the most useful element was a group of twenty or thirty farmers, rearing cattle, hunting, fishing and growing food crops as well as some tobacco. But the settlement never developed enough to produce dividends, and the Dutch company finally abandoned it in 1710. The most noteworthy results of this Dutch occupation were the exploitation of the island's great ebony forests and the extinction of the Dodo, a bird peculiar to Mauritius, often mentioned by early seventeenth-century travellers. The Dutch are also to be remembered for the introduction of sugarcane, cotton, domestic animals and deer. Prior to the Dutch occupation the island was uninhabited. The slaves introduced into Mauritius by the Dutch were brought from Madagascar.

The French in 1715 claimed the island and called it *Ile de France,* but do not seem to have settled any of their surplus Bourbon colonists there until 1722. In the intervals, European pirates from Madagascar and ships of the British Navy, searching for the pirates, were almost the only visitors to the deserted island.

From 1722 till about 1767 Mauritius was governed by the French East India Company. From 1767 to 1810 it was in charge of officials appointed by the French Government, apart from the brief period of independence under the Colonial Assembly during the French Revolution. In 1735 the population had grown to almost

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one thousand (two hundred of them Europeans) and, from the time of the governorship of Mahé de Labourdonnais onwards, increased rapidly, reaching nearly twenty thousand in 1767 (fifteen thousand of them slaves). Labourdonnais did more than any other Governor to change what was a petty outpost into a strong, prosperous and well populated colony. Much of the land was divided into concessions of approximately a quarter-mile by a mile, and most of these were farmed. Coffee, manioc, maize, vegetables, fruit, indigo, cloves and sugar were among the crops grown. There was some rearing of poultry, goats and cattle.

Towards the end of the Company's rule of the island, Port Louis, the capital, was a lair of speculators and adventurers, desirous of returning to Europe as soon as they had made their fortunes. During the wars of the eighteenth century (Austrian Succession War, Seven Years War, and War of American Independence), the island became a naval depot, supplying French fleets fighting the British in the Indian Ocean, and was the pivot of French schemes to drive the British out of their Indian trading settlements. It was also a port of call for several expeditions, notably that of Bougainville, and was described by many French travellers, of whom the best known is Bernardin de Saint Pierre, author of *Paul et Virginie*.

From 1767, under royal government, the population continued to increase, reaching thirty thousand in 1777, forty thousand in 1787, and nearly sixty thousand in 1797 (including fifty thousand slaves from Madagascar and Africa). During the French Revolution the inhabitants of Mauritius set up a government virtually independent of France, because the property owners were resolved to defend their interest against the *jacobins* and *sans culottes* and to resist the attempt made by the French revolutionary government to release the slaves. The Colonial Assembly organised successful and damaging raids on English commerce, whenever England and France were at war. The raids continued while Decaen, one of Napoleon's generals, was Governor, until 1810 when a strong British expedition, long planned and more than once postponed, was sent to capture the island. A preliminary attack was foiled at Grand Port in August 1810, but the main attack, launched in December of the same year with larger forces, was successful. Bourbon and Rodrigues were also occupied by the British in 1810, but, by the Treaty of Paris in 1814, Bourbon was given back to France. Mauritius and its dependencies, including Rodrigues and Seychelles, were then ceded definitely to Great Britain.

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Many English officials were brought in, together with a large garrison of several regiments. By 1870 the garrison had been gradually reduced to half a battalion, which was still further reduced after 1914. Few English merchants and private persons have settled in Mauritius, whose European population has remained mainly French in language and sentiment although loyal to the British Crown. After 1825, the island flourished, especially by the export of sugar to England, the crop increasing from 14,000 tons to 34,000 tons in the decade 1823–33. During these early years the English Government's policy of suppression of the slave trade and the consequent plans to free the slaves were opposed until a sum of two million pounds sterling was paid to the slave owners as compensation for the loss of their slaves. To replace the freed slaves, labourers were brought from India to work in the fields. The population, which in 1833 had reached a hundred thousand (three quarters of them slaves), had by 1861 risen to three hundred thousand, nearly two hundred thousand of them being immigrants from India, most of whom remained to settle in Mauritius.

With the aid of immigrant labourers, imported fertilizers, improved methods of agriculture and richer cane varieties, the sugar crop rose to 70,000 tons in 1853, 150,000 tons by 1900, and in 1954 reached the record figure of 533,000 tons. In the interest of the sugar industry, forests were cut down, labourers brought in, reservoir and irrigation schemes carried out, new government departments set up and technicians trained. As Joseph Conrad wrote: "First rate sugarcane is grown there. All the population lives for it and by it. Sugar is their daily bread."

Other industries were sporadically encouraged and usually neglected. After the slaves had been freed, much less food was grown locally, and more was imported, especially rice, from India. This became the staple food of the population and remained so, except when, in the 1939–45 war, rice supplies from Burma and India were cut off and imported flour and local crops had to be used as substitutes. When boom prices were being paid for sugar, after the 1914–18 war, various minor industries including tea, brick and tile manufacture, tobacco, aloe fibre bags and a government dairy were developed.

One side of Mauritian history is concerned with cyclones, epidemics and crop pests, which from time to time have upset the economy of the island. In the eighteen-fifties there were epidemics of cholera and in the eighteen-sixties five years of epidemic malaria which caused the death of 20,000 people in Port Louis alone in 1867

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and the mass migration of thousands of persons, including almost all the well-to-do, from Port Louis and the coastal districts to the higher, healthier parts of Plaines Wilhems. Curepipe, a scattered village in 1865, was by 1895 large enough to have a town board, nominated annually by the Governor, and by 1952 was a town of over 23,000 people. The district of Plaines Wilhems, which in 1851 had 14,000 inhabitants, grew to 75,000 in 1921 and 150,000 in 1952. The cyclone of 1892, in which 1,200 persons were killed; the epidemic of sura in 1902, which killed off all the draught oxen and caused sugar estates hurriedly to import light railways; bubonic plague in 1899; the *Phytalus Smithi* beetle, which, in 1911, was found to be attacking the sugarcane; the 1919 epidemic of influenza; the spread of malaria during the nineteen-thirties into the hills and higher districts; and, finally, three cyclones and a serious outbreak of infantile paralysis in 1945, are some of the greater misfortunes woven into the pattern of the island's history.

When sugar prices were high and the island was prosperous, living conditions were improved in various ways. The sanitation of Port Louis was improved in the eighteen-nineties, after long discussion. Sir Ronald Ross's visit, in 1908, led to useful anti-malarial work during the next twenty years. Reservoirs at Mare-aux-Vacoas (1893–95), La Ferme (1918), and La Nicolière (1924) brought irrigation and domestic water to private houses and to sugar estates, in several districts. Child welfare and similar activities developed in the war years. After expert inquiries in 1921, the water supply of Port Louis was greatly improved, and the port itself was modernised. Under the stimulus of the Colonial Development and Welfare Acts more money was spent on education in the nineteen-forties. Prior to 1937 government revenue had come mainly from taxes on goods entering or leaving the island as well as on various local products. A graduated poll tax on incomes was introduced and, within ten years, had almost doubled government revenue. The poll tax was replaced by an income tax as from the 1st of July, 1951. The revenue from this source rose from Rs 17,322,000 in the financial year 1950–51 to Rs 38,000,000 in the financial year 1954–55.

When sugar prices were low or climatic difficulties discouraging, the island had, at intervals, to raise loans or obtain grants from London. This happened in 1892, in 1908 when a Royal Commission of Inquiry under Sir Frank Swettenham was sent out from England, in 1930 when government expenditure on public works and on salaries was cut, and in 1945, as the consequence of the disastrous cyclones of that year.

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The main political events of the period 1850–1900 were the establishment of the Municipality of Port Louis in 1850, the Royal Commission of Enquiry on Indian Immigration in 1872, and the creation of a Council of Government including elected members in 1886.

The early years of the present century were a period of slow recovery after the epidemics, cyclones and other calamities. The years that immediately followed the 1914–18 war were years of unprecedented prosperity, owing to a boom in sugar prices, but this prosperity did not last long. During the second World War, Mauritius assumed considerable strategic importance through the closing of the Suez Canal and the threat to India by the Japanese after their conquest of most of the European settlements in the Far East. The population at large played a valuable part in the organisation of local, military and passive defence and a large number of the Colony's youth volunteered to serve overseas.

Political, social and economic problems have lately claimed the attention of both the local and the Home Government. In 1947 Letters Patent were issued granting the Colony a broader political franchise and in 1948 Mauritius took a step nearer that self-government which it temporarily enjoyed in the days of the French Revolution. During 1954 informal discussions on further constitutional changes began.

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Chapter 3: Administration

The Government of Mauritius is vested in a Governor with an Executive Council and a Legislative Council.

A Council of Government was first established in 1825. It consisted of the Governor and four officials. In the following year the Constitution was amended and a Council which included unofficial members was introduced. This Constitution provided for a Council of Government composed of certain officers of the Crown and an equal number of other persons, to be taken from the chief landowners and principal merchants of the Colony; seven officials and seven non-officials were accordingly appointed.

The Constitution was again amended in October 1885. The Council of Government under the revised Constitution was composed of the Governor, eight ex-officio members, nine members nominated by the Governor, and ten members elected by the people; of the latter, two represented the town of Port Louis, the capital of the island, and the remaining eight represented the rural districts. At least one-third of the nominated members were to be persons not holding any public office.

The Constitution was further amended in July 1933, by fixing at two-thirds the proportion of the nominated members of the Council, who were to be non-officials and, although no provision to that effect was made in the Letters Patent, the nominated non-official members were allowed a free vote on all occasions. The constitution of the Executive Council, which had hitherto been composed of the Governor and four ex-officio members, was amended at the same time, and the practice of appointing non-official members to the Council which prevailed prior to the report of the Royal Commission of 1909 was revived.

The normal life of a Council is five years, but the last one to sit under the 1933 Constitution lasted from 1936 to June 1948. This long extension was due, first of all, to the war and, subsequently, to the delay in arriving at a final decision on the new and more liberal Constitution. The protracted labours of the Consultative Committee on the revision of the constitution had ended in a virtual stalemate. In 1947, the then Governor, Sir Donald Mackenzie-Kennedy, broke this stalemate by submitting to the Secretary of State revised proposals, based on his belief that the bulk of the population was not ready for fully democratic institutions. To guard against possible abuse, certain safeguards were suggested, but within these limitations, the widest possible measure of enfranchisement, on the basis of a "simple literacy" requirement, was recommended by the Governor.

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His recommendations were accepted and embodied in the Letters Patent, Royal Instructions and Order in Council dated the 9th December, 1947. General elections were held on the 9th and 10th August, 1948, and the new Council met on the first day of September.

Under the new constitution, British subjects, male or female, of 21 years of age or upwards, who have been ordinarily and *bona fide* residents in the Colony for a period of two years preceding an election, and,

(a) being originally resident in some electoral district, are able to read and write simple sentences and sign their names in one of certain specified languages, to the satisfaction of the Registering Officer, or

(b) being ordinarily resident in some electoral district, are qualified as serving in the Forces, or as ex-servicemen discharged, with certificate of satisfactory service, or

(c) have been for six months previous to the date of registration, owners or occupiers of business premises in an electoral district

are entitled to vote. An elector may have a vote under *(c)*, in addition to a vote under *(a)* or *(b)*, provided that he qualifies in respect of separate districts. Aliens, those under 21 years of age, those not possessing the residence qualification, criminals serving an unexpired sentence of over 12 months, the insane and, finally, those " disqualified for registration by any law for the time being in force in the Colony relating to offences connected with elections " are debarred from a vote.

Electoral districts were regrouped under the Order in Council dated December 1947. Plaines Wilhems and Black River were joined together to form one electoral district returning six members. The electoral districts of Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart, Moka—Flacq and Grand Port—Savanne each return three members, and the capital constituency of Port Louis has four members, by virtue of its dense population and commercial importance.

Under the 1933 Constitution, the number of registered electors was never greater than 12,000 (the figure for December 1947 was 11,799). The number of registered electors under the new Constitution in 1948 was six times greater—71,723 having qualified to vote in the 1948 elections. The number of registered electors at the end of 1955 had risen to 91,318.

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The Legislative Council is now composed of 3 *ex-officio*, 12 nominated non-official and 19 elected members, under the presidency of the Governor with a Vice-President elected by the Council from amongst its members (at present an elected Member). The Executive Council consists of 3 officials (the Colonial Secretary, the Financial Secretary and the Procureur General), four members selected for appointment by the Legislative Council from amongst the non-official members, and such other members as the Governor may appoint (recent practice has been for the Governor to appoint two members of the Legislative Council).

The names of members of the Executive Council and the Legislative Council and the changes in composition during the year are given in Appendices II and III to this Report.

In debates in the Legislative Council Members may speak either in English or in French.

In April 1951, the Governor announced to the Legislative Council a scheme to bring Unofficial Members in closer touch with certain government departments and thus give them the opportunity to gain fuller knowledge of departmental policy and take their share with the Governor in framing it. The duties of the " Liaison Officers " as they are called, were defined as follows:

(a) Thoroughly to familiarize themselves with the policy set out by the Government for the working of their departments and to bring before the Governor-in-Council such proposals for modification or alteration in government policy as they may think fit.

(b) Thoroughly to familiarize themselves with the steps taken by their departments to carry out the approved government policy; and, after consultation with the Departmental head, to make such suggestions as they may think fit to the Governor-in-Council for improvement in the execution of such policy.

(c) To discuss with the Departmental head, and with any appropriate Committee, the preparation of the department's annual estimates, and any application for supplementary provision and to make any representations in connection therewith, which they may think fit, to the Governor-in-Council.

Liaison Officers, as such, are not concerned with appointments, promotions or discipline. These, under the constitution of the Colony, are matters for the Secretary of State, the Governor, or the Governor-in-Council alone. The names of the Liaison Officers in 1955 are given in Appendix II to this Report. So far only Members of the Executive Council have been appointed.

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The head of the Civil Service is the Colonial Secretary. He is the Governor's chief adviser on administrative and political matters, the Financial Secretary advising on financial and economic policy.

Local Government—Rural

A fresh start in rural local government was made in October 1946, when a Civil Commissioner was appointed to take charge of the southern districts of Grand Port and Savanne. In May 1947, a second Civil Commissioner was appointed for the northern districts of Pamplemousses and Rivière du Rempart, and a third Civil Commissioner, for the districts of Moka and Flacq, assumed duty towards the end of 1948. In October 1952, Black River was added to the Southern districts under the jurisdiction of the Civil Commissioner for the South. In September 1955 a fourth Civil Commissioner was appointed to take charge of the Black River district—formerly under the supervision of the Civil Commissioner for the southern districts—and the rural parts of Plaines Wilhems. The rural parts of Port Louis have also been added to the northern districts. The Civil Commissioner is the principal administrative and executive officer of Government in his district and is responsible for coordinating the whole machinery of Government. The relationship between the Civil Commissioner and his technical colleagues in the district is similar in kind to that between the Governor and Heads of Departments. He is also responsible for the development of local government organisations in his district and for ensuring the welfare of its inhabitants by all means at his disposal.

Village Councils were first constituted in 1947. A few councils developed very rapidly indeed and were given government contracts for such services as scavenging and the upkeep of cemeteries. With funds provided by the central administration, councils undertook road repairs and the construction of bridges, markets, water supplies, latrines, primary school buildings, a day nursery and even a housing experiment. Not all village councils have reached the same standard.

New impetus has been given to rural local government by the Village Councils and District Councils Ordinances which came into force on the 9th of February and on the 15th of October, 1952, respectively. Regular elections, powers to raise taxes, own property and make bye-laws greatly enhanced the status of the village councils. The District Council which advises the Civil Commissioner on matters of policy, allocates funds to village councils and generally correlates their work, is able to raise certain taxes not applicable to any

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one village. At the end of 1952, District Councils were set up in each of the three Civil Commissioners' districts following elections held under the Ordinance.

There were at the end of 1955, 27 Village Councils in the South, 28 in Moka—Flacq, 27 in the North and 9 in the Plaines Wilhems—Black River districts.

Village Councils consist of eight members elected on a liberal franchise and four members nominated by the Governor. District Councils consist of the Civil Commissioner and thirteen other members. These thirteen members are: an elected member of the Legislative Council appointed by the Governor (usually the first member for the District); a sugar estate Manager appointed by the Governor from among those in the district; a President of a Co-operative Society elected by the Presidents of Co-operative Societies in the District; representatives of the Medical, Education and Public Works and Surveys departments appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Head of Department; and seven Chairmen of Village Councils elected by the Chairmen of Village Councils in the district. The Chairman is elected by the members of the District Council from amongst their number and has so far been the Civil Commissioner. The Local Government Officer is the Secretary and Treasurer of the District Council.

URBAN

The larger urban areas of Mauritius have had their own local government organisations for many years.

The constitution of the Municipality of Port Louis, which was first established in 1849, was modified at the end of 1950, by Ordinance No. 35, which increased the membership of the Council from 12 to 16 and provided suffrage on practically the same basis as the local parliamentary suffrage. There were 3,485 registered electors in 1948; at the end of 1955 the number was 19,836.

The Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are appointed by the Council, subject to confirmation by the Governor.

In the Plaines Wilhems district, the three Boards of Commissioners, described in previous annual reports, have now been superseded by Town Councils in which the members are partly elected, and partly nominated by the Governor. The Town Councils of Curepipe and Beau Bassin—Rose Hill are composed of nine elected and four nominated members, and that of Quatre Bornes of seven elected, and three nominated members. In December, 1955, the electors on the roll of the three Town Councils numbered 6,939, 6,527 and 3,517 respectively.

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A Select Committee of the Legislative Council appointed to examine and report upon proposals for the declaration as towns of Vacoas—Phoenix and Mahebourg submitted its report on the 16th of December 1954. The recommendations included the creation of three new Townships: Mahebourg, in the district of Grand Port and Phoenix and Vacoas in the Plaines Wilhems district. The Committee's Report is under examination.

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Chapter 4: Weights and Measures

The Metric system is in general use in the Colony. Certain French measures are still used in connection with measurements of land, the more common being:

1 French foot	=	1·06 English feet
1 Arpent	=	40,000 square French feet or 1·04 acres
1 Toise	=	6 French feet or 2 yards 4 inches

The following measures of capacity are also in use:

1 Bouteille	=	800 c.c. (liquid)
1 Chopine	=	half-bouteille
1 Corde	=	80 French cubic feet or 96·82 English cubic feet (used only to measure firewood).

A measure of length commonly used in the field is the *Gaulette* which is equivalent to 10 French feet. The term *livre* is used currently to mean half a kilogram.

The Weights and Measures Control Section of the Police Force is responsible for examining and stamping weights, scales, weighing machines, measures of length and measures of capacity. This section also deals with all inaccurate weights and measures seized by the uniformed Police and issues the necessary certificates for production in Court. The control of weighbridges on sugar estates is the responsibility of the Central Board constituted under the Sale of Canes (Control) Ordinance.

The amount of duty collected on weights and measures in 1955 was Rs 10,450 as against Rs 9,969 in 1954.

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PART III

Chapter 5: Reading List

A list of publications of general interest relating to Mauritius, is given in Appendix IV to this report.

The Bibliographical Survey of Mauritiana, begun in 1951, was completed in 1955. The survey covers the period 1502 to 1954; it will be published under the title of *Bibliography of Mauritius, 1502–1954* and should be available in 1956. To keep it up to date it is proposed to issue a bibliographical supplement every year as an appendix to the annual report of the Archives Department.

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APPENDIX I

Mauritius Development and Welfare Ten Year Plan

(From July 1, 1946 to June 30, 1955)

Revenue

Colonial Development and Welfare Funds :—

	Rs
Colony's Allocation...	19,855,395
Central Schemes	397,326
Research Schemes	2,033,349
	22,286,070
Loan Funds	45,725,269
Local Funds (contributions from general revenues, subventions and reimbursements)	23,953,016
TOTAL REVENUE ...	91,964,355

Expenditure

Head	*Expenditure 1946–55*	*Sources of Finance*		
		C.D. & W	*Local*	*Loan*
	Rs c	Rs c	Rs c	Rs c
1. Administration	4,548,145 89	253,705 59	4,294,440 30	—
2. Agriculture ...	4,611,010 59	123,300 70	3,985,744 95	501,964 94
3. Education ...	1,065,711 22	—	1,065,711 22	—
4. Health ...	5,892,279 09	5,000,000 00	892,279 09	—
5. Nutrition ...	260,608 99	30,262 75	230,346 24	—
6. Settlement ...	929,031 66	736,603 64	136,602 91	55,825 11
7. Irrigation and Water supplies	28,817,837 86	10,576,344 55	—	18,241,493 31
8. Buildings ...	9,403,439 28	2,927,059 44	119,204 26	6,357,175 58
9. Roads ...	3,326,185 19	—	—	3,326,185 19
10. Research ...	7,262,424 19	2,065,695 71	5,196,728 48	—
11. Sugar Industry	5,728,908 00	—	5,728,908 00	—
12. Interest Charges ...	—	—	—	—
13. Scholarships & Training Grants	79,279 83	44,241 53	35,038 30	—
14. Sewerage ...	596,905 05	—	13,000 00	583,905 05
15. Secondary Industries ...	5,282,703 64	—	10,000 00	5,272,703 64
16. Forestry ...	1,221,499 33	528,856 35	—	692,642 98
17. Housing ...	4,893,000 00	—	—	4,893,000 00
18. Agricultural Development...	78,661 73	—	—	78,661 73
19. Rodrigues ...	474,480 56	—	359,604 04	114,876 52
TOTAL ...	84,472,112 10	22,286,070 26	22,067,607 79	40,118,434 05

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APPENDIX II

(Part III—Chapter 3: Administration)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1955

President

His Excellency SIR ROBERT SCOTT, K.C.M.G.

ROBERT NEWTON, ESQ., C.M.G., from 7th to 30th July and from 17th September to 14th October, 1955.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

ROBERT NEWTON, ESQ., C.M.G.

F. L. SIMPSON, ESQ., (Acting)—8th July to 29th July, 1955.

The Honourable the Procureur and Advocate General.

R. ESPITALIER-NOËL, ESQ., Q.C., from 20th June to 31st December, 1955.

R. NEERUNJUN, ESQ., O.B.E., (Acting) from 1st January to 19th June, 1955.

The Honourable the Financial Secretary.

H. J. HINCHEY, ESQ., C.B.E., from 1st January to 12th June, 1955.

D. A. KAIN, ESQ., (Acting) from 13th June to 31st December, 1955.

Selected for appointment by the Governor

Dr. the Honourable S. RAMGOOLAM, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. (England).

Dr. the Honourable C. E. MILLIEN, M.D. *(Lyons)*.

The Honourable A. GUJADHUR.

The Honourable A. L. NAIRAC, C.B.E.

Appointed by the Governor

The Honourable R. SEENEEVASSEN.

The Honourable F. G. MARTIAL, O.B.E.

LIAISON OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR 1955

Dr. the Honourable S. RAMGOOLAM	...	Education
Dr. the Honourable C. E. MILLIEN	...	Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests
The Honourable R. SEENEEVASSEN	...	Health, Welfare Services and Prisons
The Honourable A. L NAIRAC, C.B.E.	...	Labour.

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APPENDIX III

(Part III—Chapter 3: Administration)

MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATURE FOR THE YEAR 1955

President

His Excellency SIR ROBERT SCOTT, K.C.M.G.

Vice-President

The Honourable H. R. VAGHJEE. Elected Member for Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart.

Ex-Officio Members

The Honourable the Colonial Secretary.

ROBERT NEWTON, ESQ., C.M.G.

The Honourable the Procureur and Advocate General.

R. ESPITALIER-NOËL, ESQ., Q.C., from 20th June to 31st December, 1955.

R. NEERUNJUN, ESQ., O.B.E., (Acting) from 1st January to 19th June, 1955.

The Honourable the Financial Secretary.

H. J. HINCHEY, ESQ., from 1st January, 1955 to 12th June, 1955.

D. A. KAIN, ESQ., (Acting) from 13th June, 1955 to 31st December, 1955.

Elected Members

Dr. the Honourable S. RAMGOOLAM, for Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart.

Dr. the Honourable C. E. MILLIEN, for Port Louis.

The Honourable R. SEENEEVASSEN, for Port Louis.

The Honourable A. GUJADHUR, for Moka—Flacq.

The Honourable J. M. J. L. M. J. KŒNIG, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable A. BEEJADHUR, for Pamplemousses—Rivière du Rempart.

The Honourable S. BISSOONDOYAL, for Grand Port—Savanne.

The Honourable J. G. FORGET, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable P. G. R. RAULT, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

The Honourable J. G. ROZEMONT, for Port Louis.

The Honourable V. RINGADOO, for Moka—Flacq.

Dr. the Honourable R. BHAGEERUTTY, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.

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APPENDIX III—*continued*

The Honourable S. BOOLELL, for Moka—Flacq.
The Honourable F. S. CHADIEN, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.
Dr. the Honourable L. R. CHAPERON, for Plaines Wilhems—Black River.
The Honourable A. R. MOHAMED, for Port Louis.
The Honourable L. P. ROZEMONT, for Grand Port—Savanne.
The Honourable G. VENKATASAMY, for Grand Port—Savanne.

Nominated Members

The Honourable A. L. NAIRAC, C.B.E.
The Honourable F. G. MARTIAL, O.B.E.
The Honourable A. M. OSMAN, O.B.E.
Dr. the Honourable A. E. DE CHAZAL, O.B.E.
The Honourable J. AH-CHUEN.
The Honourable M. A. D. R. MAIGROT, O.B.E.
The Honourable A. G. SAUZIER.
The Honourable H. A. BAHEMIA.
Dr. the Honourable L. A. CELESTIN, M.C.
The Honourable G. J. M. SCHILLING.
The Honourable D. TAYLOR.
The Honourable M. J. E. PIAT.

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APPENDIX IV

(Part III—Chapter 5: Reading list)

Leading Books on Mauritius

GENERAL

GENERALIA

UNIENVILLE, Marie Claude Antoine Marrier, baron d': Statistique de l'île Maurice et ses dépendances suivi d'une notice historique sur cette colonie et d'un Essai sur l'île de Madagascar. Paris, G. Barba, 1838. 3 vols.

A second edition was published in Port Louis, Typ. The Merchants and Planters Gazette, 1885–86, 3 vols, with phot. portr.

MACMILLAN, Allister, *ed*: Mauritius Illustrated Historical and descriptive, commercial and industrial facts, figures, and resources. London, W. H. and L. Collingridge, 1914. 456, with numerous illus. and maps.

WALTER, A.: Chronological table of events in Mauritius, 1507–1916. Appendix to the Mauritius Almanac, (1917). Mauritius, The Mauritius Stationery and Printing Cy. Ltd., 1917. 57p.

Fairly complete for the period of British occupation.

CHAROUX, Clément: Guide illustré de l'île Maurice. Port Louis. General Printing and Stationery Cy. Ltd., 1936. 64, (32), IIp., illus.

The only tourist hand-book on Mauritius.

TOUSSAINT, Auguste: Port Louis, deux siècles d'histoire, (1735–1935). Avec une Préface de Pierre Crépin, Docteur-ès-Lettres, Lauréat de l'Académie Française. Port Louis, La Typographie Moderne, 1936. (IX), 516p., with 50 plates and 9 maps.

Published on the occasion of the celebration of the bi-centenary of the foundation of Port Louis under the patronage of the Bi-centenary Committee, the Historical Records Committee and the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius. A very full account of the development of Port Louis.

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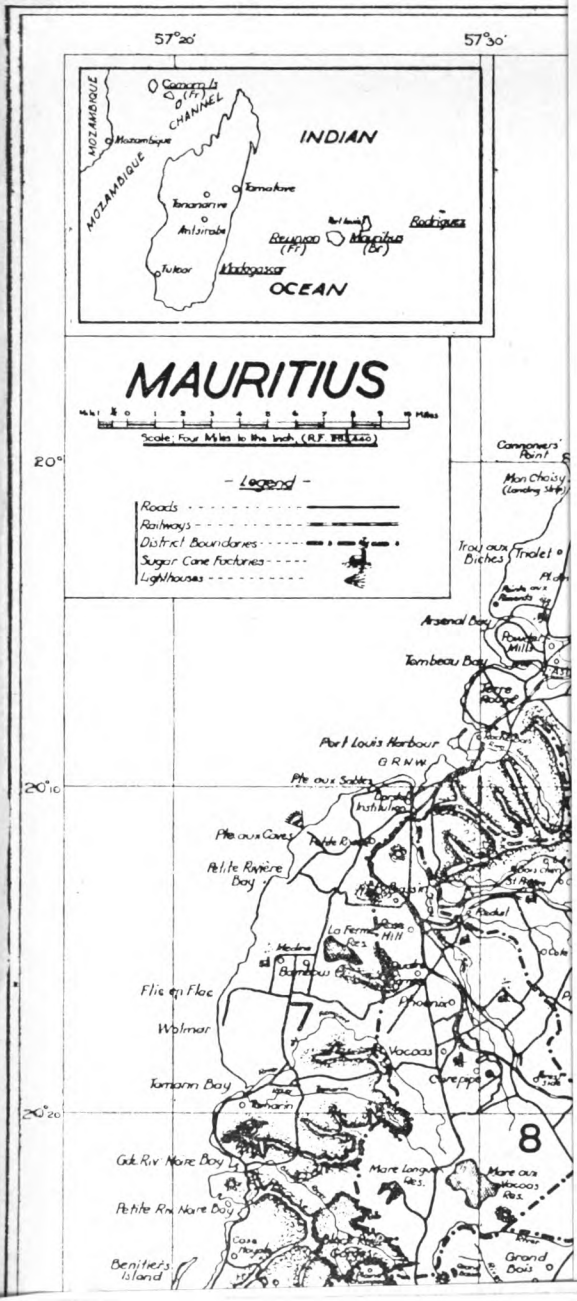

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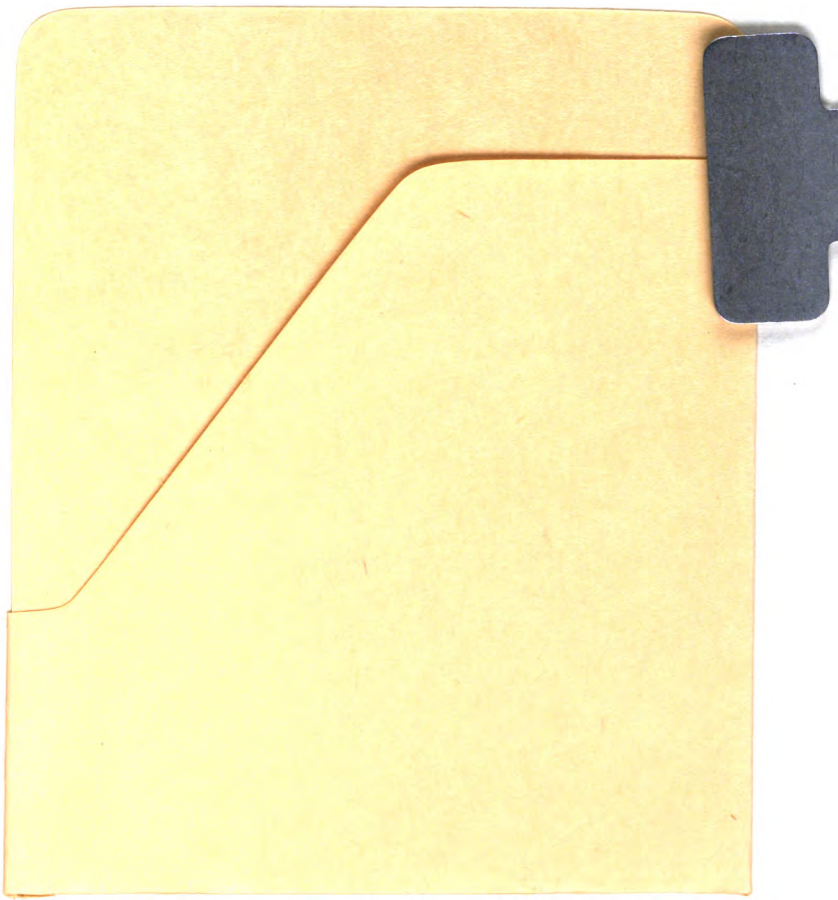

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